

# THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

Serving the Courier area since 1837

NEWSSTAND • \$1.25

## City borrows from utilities to cover parks shortfall

**\$575K must be repaid within 6 months**

BY MARK CAMPBELL

Madison City Council held a special meeting on Monday, Dec. 30 to adopt two resolutions, including one to address three budget shortfalls in the parks department totaling more than a half-million dollars due to revenue-producing properties that either under performed in 2024 or cost more to operate than their budget allocations.

Resolution 2024-13C provided for a temporary transfer of \$575,000 between the utilities and parks departments not to

exceed six months to cover the parks budget shortfalls prior to the end of the year.

The emergency transfer will send \$546,346 to the Park NRO Fund, \$28,584 to the Park Donation Fund and \$70 to the Community Development and Event Fund with the requirement that the entire amount will be repaid the utilities within six months.

According to Madison Mayor Bob Courtney and City Clerk-Treasurer Shirley Rynearson, the fund transfers were for year-end reporting purposes and will have no impact on the overall 2024 budget. He said it's a situation partially exacerbated by a lower tax levy and while the money is there, the way it was allocated during the budget pro-

cess did not align with where it needed to be spent by year's end.

However, Courtney did note that efforts will be made to evaluate park's department fees to make sure that revenue covers expenditures, "educate" parks department staff on the need to

SEE BORROW/PAGE A6



Greg Sekula, director of the southern office of Indiana Landmarks, stands on the staircase of the house at 119 Madison Avenue in Hanover, that was purchased by Indiana Landmarks last month. The plan is to renovate and save the home for use as a single family residence.

## Historic Hanover house saved from demolition by Indiana Landmarks

BY BOB DEMAREE

An historic Hanover house has been saved from demolition with the property's purchase by Indiana Landmarks earlier this month.

"We're pleased to be able to save this building for the community, and we think it'll be one of the gems of Hanover when it's done," said Greg Sekula, director of the southern office of Indiana Landmarks.

The house, located at 119 Madison Avenue, dates back to the middle to late 1800s, was purchased May 15 by Chi Chapter House Corporation Inc., a nonprofit for Hanover College's Sigma Chi fraternity with plans to tear it down and build a new structure on the land with a meeting room and lodging for the fraternity's alumni.

SEE HOUSE/PAGE A6



Indiana Landmarks has purchased a historic Hanover house, located at 119 Madison Avenue and dating back to the middle to late 1800s, to save it from demolition with plans to rehabilitate the structure as a single family home.

**TONY STEINHARDT JR.** Madison Area Chamber of Commerce and the Madison Regatta, and active member of the Knights of Columbus, Elks Club, Rotary Club and Jefferson County Historical Society. He and wife, Phyllis, also established Steinhardt Heating and Air Conditioning in 1977.

Steinhardt, a businessman, soldier and family man known for his involvement with the Miss Madison Racing Team — most noteworthy being Miss Madison team manager when Jim McCormick drove the boat to the 1971 Gold Cup race — also served as a consultant for the 2001 movie "Madison" based on the story of that momentous event.

He was also known for involvement with the community — a past president of the

SEE LEADER/PAGE A6



8 51633 00100 7

## CHARLIE'S BEAT

### Two classical shows coming in early January

The Madison Performing Arts Foundation (MPAF) has a rare double-header coming up on the second weekend in January. There's a performance of sacred songs and arias out at Hanover College on Friday, Jan. 10. Later that same weekend, on Sunday Jan. 12, a classical violin and piano duo will be performing at the Picker



CHARLIE ROHLFING

CHARLIE'S BEAT

House, the new event and music space behind the Cotton Mill Fairfield Inn & Suites down near the bridge. I caught up with Starla Raley, a member of the MPAF group that puts on Madison's annual schedule of classical and traditional music. "We had I think 13 concerts in 2024, and we're off to a great start in the new year with these two shows,"

says Starla. "This is the style of music that all of us on the MPAF committee love and appreciate, and we think it's important that a music town like Madison showcase a diversity of genres and styles to suit all tastes. "I'm very excited about these two upcoming shows," Starla continues. "The first one on January 10 features Jonathan Stanley on tenor horn and Madlen Batchvarova on piano, at Fitzgibbon Hall out at the college. They are calling it

'Divine Love,' and it's some of the most beautiful music ever composed.

"Then the show on Sunday will be excellent also. It's William Herzog on violin, with Christina Seal on piano, playing some very emotional and compelling classical pieces. Actually, the show is dedicated to Kay Watterhus, Jan Vetrus' mother, who recently died at age 98. And the sound of unamplified acoustic instruments in the Picker Hall is something you just

have to experience to believe. I can't wait!

Being a part of the music scene here in Madison has been very enriching and fulfilling for both me and my husband, Michael Raley. We came here about 12 years ago when he got a job teaching history at Hanover. He's a classical trombone player and I'm a pianist. With all the kindred spirits at MPAF, we found a very

SEE SHOWS/PAGE A8

## INSIDE

Records/A2  
Sports/B1-4,  
B6-8

## DEATHS, A2-3, A6

James Burr  
Larry Gray  
Tracie Johnston  
Roy Konkle

William Law  
Ann Moore  
Mary Quigley  
Jean Shelton

Deborah Singer  
Dalton Skirvin  
Kaleb Skirvin  
Sandra Snyder

Anthony Sowers  
'Tony' Steinhardt Jr.  
Dwight Wehner

33  
High15  
Low

Details, Page A2

## NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
CENTER

## LODGINGS

## December 30, 2024

William Todd Hayes, 54, Lexington, Indiana, for Criminal Confinement, a Level 6 felony; and Domestic Battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond \$2,500 cash.

## December 31, 2024

Trinidad Gonzalez Jr, 18, Madison, for Communication Intimidation, a Level 5 felony; and Pointing a Firearm, a Level 6 felony. No bond.

Garry Allen Horn, 45, Hanover, to serve a court-ordered sentence for probation violation. Bond \$10,000 cash.

Cabrera Resendiz, 72, for Neglect of a Dependent/Child Violations, a Level 6 felony; Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, a Class A misdemeanor; and Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond.

## January 1, 2025

Stephanie Erin Dorsey, 29, Brownstown, Indiana, for Escape, a Level 5 felony; and Battery and Resisting Law Enforcement, both Class A misdemeanors. No bond.

Thomas Edwin Grayson, 33, Madison, for Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor; and Operating Without Ever Obtaining a License, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond \$500 cash.

## January 2, 2025

Robert J. Parker, 39, Worth Kentucky, for Public Intoxication by Alcohol/Drugs, a Class B misdemeanor. Released on own recognizance.

JEFFERSON COUNTY  
CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR  
COURT

## SENTENCINGS

## December 30, 2024

Brandy Marie Ritchie, 37, Hanover, for Criminal Mischief, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail, all suspended to 365 days supervised probation plus \$289 in fees and court costs and restitution to Ellen Hartlage in an amount to be

determined.

John Carlos Davis, 61, Madison, for Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail, all suspended to 180 days supervised probation plus \$289.50 in fees and court costs. If defendant obtains a valid license, probation may terminate.

Jose Modesto, 56, Charlestown, Indiana, for Driving While Suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, all suspended to supervised probation plus \$289.50 in fees and court costs. If after 180 days probation defendant can show proof of a valid driver's license, probation may convert to unsupervised.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

## December 27, 2024

Swift Property Buying LLC to Megan Berry and Richard Sparks, 1933 Vanburen Drive, Madison.

Christopher M. Litteral to Linda Casper and Dane Scott Casper, 2007 Clifty Drive, Madison.

David E. Henderson to Marc Pastiner, 1 Carpet Alley, Madison.

Hendren Properties LLC to Riley James Nasby, 205 Sycamore South Drive, Hanover.

Riley James Nasby to Sin Fin Investments, 205 Sycamore South Drive, Hanover.

National Farm Management LLC to Ford Family Farms LP, approximately 160.5 acres at 178 and 600 North Badger Drive, Madison.

Patrick A. Dryden and Diana J. Dryden to Micah Yoder, Jared Yoder and Joash Yoder, 63 South West Paine Street, Hanover.

Charlene Bell and Charlene Eden to Charlene Eden, 613 East Street, Madison.

## December 30, 2024

Michael J. Walro and Ann M. Walro to Ann M. Walro and James Walro, Matthew Walro and Kathleen Reichel (transferees death), 221 South Paine Street, Hanover.

4H Acquisitions LLC to Theom LLC, 217 East Main Street, Madison.

Rachelle Kramer to Critical Pipeline Repair

LLP, three parcels totaling approximately 9.5 acres at 13565 West Henry Road, Deputy.

Lime LLC to Rick Lacour and Linda Lacour, 609 Mulberry Street, Madison.

WRE-Madison LLC to Blue Moon Investments, 748 Clifty Drive, Madison.

Wilford Wayne Lewis (deceased) and Michael Cornett to Jaden Ashton White, 3.8 acres at 7944 East Brushy Fork Road, Madison.

David A. Gray and Deborah L. Gray to Michael Wayne Aldridge, 1605 Oak Hill Drive, Madison.

Naomi E. Mack to Robert Wise, Angie Reihart and Robin Varela (transferees death), 2813 Meadowwood Drive, Madison.

Shane N. Rowlett to Roger A. Gray, 2344 Ross Place, Madison.

Waltz Properties LLC to Maria Del Carmen Rios, 3235 North Quail Drive, Madison.

December 31, 2024

Hanover Manor LLC to Steven Boldery, 139 Parkside Drive, Hanover.

Terry Barker to Michael B. Black and Donna Black, 3746 South State Road 62, Hanover.

Donald G. Kring and Jo Ellen Kring to Donald G. Kring and Jo Ellen Kring (life estate), Sheila Barron and Mary Kring (trustees) and Kring Irrevocable Trust, 1800 Hatcher Hill Road, Madison.

Don Kring and Jo Ellen Kring to Sheila M. Barron, 1799 Hatcher Hill Road, Madison.

Jacob R. Gruber and Fanny B. Gruber to Marcus Delagrange and Ann Delagrange, approximately 73.3 acres at 4765 North 600 West, Madison.

Alan R. Garrett and Debra L. Garrett to Alan R. Garrett and Debra L. Garrett (living trust), 1421 Monroe Drive, Madison.

Thomas Galassi and Toni Galassi to Brenda Matthews and Renee Matthews, 320 Montclair, Madison.

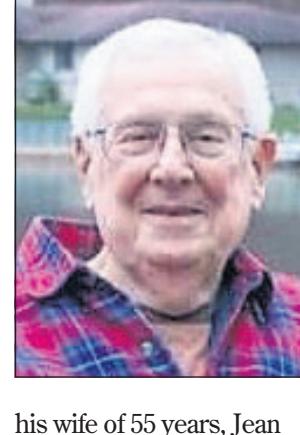
Paige Michelle Hess Comeaux to Gage Sproles, 2000+ River Bottom Road, Hanover.

Comeaux Rental Properties LLC to Elizabeth Beatty, 132 West Main Street, Hanover.

Barry A. Gray to Samantha J. Hardy and William Tyrel McIntosh, 10268 North State Road 7, Dupont.

## OBITUARIES

## Dwight 'Lynn' Wehner



Dwight "Lynn" Wehner, 77, of Martinsville, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024. He was born to the late Leo and Erlene Wehner of Madison, IN. Lynn's career was spent as a Project Manager with companies such as Indiana Bell and United Health Services. He liked to fish, travel, and spend time with his grandchildren. He would never miss a grandchild's event. Lynn was in the United States Army Reserve. He was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ. Lynn is survived by

his wife of 55 years, Jean Wehner; two children David (Katrina) Wehner and Jennifer (Brian) Coon; and three grandchildren

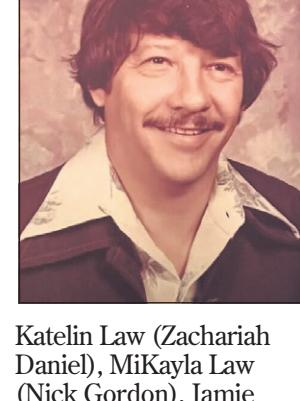
Gavin Coon, Brayden Coon and Alice Wehner. He was proceeded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be held Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at St. John's United Church of Christ, 7031 South East Street, Indianapolis, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a memorial service to follow at the church.

A graveside service will be held at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. John's United Church of Christ.

## William 'Billy' Law Jr



William "Billy" Law Jr., age 87, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Dec. 5, 1937, in Trimble County, KY. He was the loving son of the late William A. and Bessie Miles Law. He graduated from Dupont High School in Dupont, IN. On Dec. 21, 1957, he was united in marriage to Gwendolyn Kay Ritchie in Madison, IN. This happy union of 67 years was blessed with three sons, Dean, William David, Douglas, and a daughter, Dianna. He was inducted into the United States Army and then transferred to the National Guard and served for six years. Billy retired from Cummins Engine Company in 1988, after 32 1/2 years of service. He attended the Wirt Baptist Church, and R.S.V.P. He was a loving husband, dad, grandpa, great grandpa, brother, and friend. Billy died on Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at 1:33 p.m., at the Norton King's Daughters' Hospital in Madison, IN.

Billy will be missed by his loving wife of 67 years, Gwendolyn Kay Ritchie Law of Madison, IN; his sons, Dean Law and his wife Mary of Madison, IN, William David Law and his wife Debbie of Madison, IN, Douglas Law and his wife Becky of Madison, IN; his daughter, Dianna McAlister of Madison, IN; his grandchildren,

Katelin Law (Zachariah Daniel), McKayla Law (Nick Gordon), Jamie Hon (Danny), David Law (Heather) Emily Law (Jacob Bruner), Andrew Law (Tiffany), Jeremy Law (Lynette), Aja Bridgewater (Jason), Brandy Ellis (Brad), Kaylee Wiley (Shawn), Steven Schmidt (Jami); his great-grandchildren, Jace, Haven, Vinlee, Maverick, Holland, Brittany, Danny Jr., Donavan, Stacy, Tyler, Torii, Brooklynn, Ahlah, Silas, Clara, Wyatt, Emerson, Lexie, Keith, Ethan, Erika, Tanner, Logan, Elijah, Easton, Braeden, Grace; 13 great-great-grandchildren; his sister, Edna Murphy of Northern, IN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by father, William A. Law, mother, Bessie Miles Law, his brothers, Frank "Bud" Law, and Kenneth Lee Law in infancy, his sisters, Ora

Lee Law in infancy, Louise Law Hartman, and Mary Elizabeth Law Bullock, Ermogene Konkle, and Pauline Roberts; his father in law, Howard O. Ritchie; his mother in law, Helen L. Wehner Ritchie; his brothers in law, Charles Frederick Ritchie, and Darryl Howard Ritchie.

Funeral services will be conducted on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at 11 a.m., by Pastor Troy Hedges at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive, In Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1415 North Gate Road in Madison.

Friends could visit on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, from 4 — 7 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

A final salute with military honors will be provided by the Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 of the American Legion.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wirt Baptist Church or Parkinson's Research. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Roy Dale Konkle, 68**, of Jeffersonville, IN, and formerly of Madison, IN, died Monday, Dec. 30, 2024, at Clark Memorial Hospital in Jeffersonville. Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, with interment to follow in the Dupont Cemetery in Dupont, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

**Mary Christine**

**Bernadette Martin Quigley, 68**, of Vevay, IN, died Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, at the Traditions At Brookside in McCordsville. Memorial Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at St. Patrick Catholic Chapel on Madison's hilltop. Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, in Madison. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

**Jean Hilbert Shelton, 99**, of McCordsville, IN, and formerly of Hanover, IN, died Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, at the Traditions At Brookside in McCordsville. Memorial Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at St. Patrick Catholic Chapel on Madison's hilltop. Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, in Madison. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

SEE DEATH/PAGE A3

## Damage limited in Milton fire

## BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Milton Fire & Rescue responded to a fire call on New Year's Eve in the 200 block of Oak Grove Road in Milton.

The call came in at 6:33 p.m. as a report of smoke in the residence. Firefighters arrived on the scene and began checking the house and found heat coming from a bedroom wall. Upon investigation, heavy fire was located on the rear of the residence.

Due to the quick actions of the firefighters on the scene, the blaze was quickly extinguished and contained to a small area at the rear of the residence.

After investigating, the cause of the fire was determined to be a faulty outlet on the outside of the house. Smoke alarms in the residence helped alert the occupants, who evacuated the residence and there were no injuries.

## LOTTERY

## INDIANA

**Hoosier Lotto:** 4-15-25-27-44-45 (1/1). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$35.5 million. Next Drawing (1/4).

**Cash Five:** 1-5-25-28-31 (1/2)

**Cash 4 Life:** 10-11-13-18-29 CB: 1 (1/1)

**KENTUCKY**

**Cash Ball:** 2-11-23-31 CB 25 (1/1)

**Lucky For Life:** 7-15-17-39-40 LB: 16 (1/1)

## BIRTHDAYS

**Editor's Note:** Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have followup questions.

## JANUARY 3

Amy Slayden Anderson  
Kellie Spoonamore-Gullion

## JANUARY 4

Alan Burnham  
Lisa Dryden

Theresa Scroggins

## JANUARY 6

Jarvis Jenkins

## JANUARY 8

Mary Jo McClelland

## JANUARY 9

Sharon Ogden

## JANUARY 10

Larami King

## JANUARY 12

David Brent

## JANUARY 14

Dave Taylor

## WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:58 a.m.

Sunset: 5:34 p.m.

Temperature: High 39, Low 29, Mean 34.0, Excess 3.8

Precipitation since last published: .32

Precipitation, December 2024: 4.67

Precipitation, January 2025: .01

Precipitation, 2024: 44.81

Precipitation, 2025: .01

Barometer: 30.07, Rising

River Level at Clifty Creek: 428.04, Rising

</

## OBITUARIES

## Dalton Keith Skirvin

Dalton Keith Skirvin, age 27, of Madison, IN, entered this life on May 30, 1997, in Madison, IN. He was the son of Brian Keith Skirvin and Yatisha Faye Scholl. He resided all of his life in Jefferson County and attended school there and he later received his GED. He was blessed with a daughter, Adalynn Kay Ann Skirvin. Dalton worked construction for most of his working career. He enjoyed riding dirt bikes, hunting, fishing and being with his family. Dalton died on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, at 3:53 a.m. in Madison, IN.

Dalton will be missed by his father, Brian Keith Skirvin of Madison, IN; his mother, Yatisha Faye Scholl of Madison, IN; his daughter, Adalynn Kay Ann Skirvin; his brothers, Kyle Skirvin of Madison, IN, Shay Truesdell of Madison, IN, Brian Michael Skirvin and his wife, Laken of Madison, IN, Jacob Skirvin



of Madison, IN; his maternal grandmothers, Autumn Hoover of Commiskey, IN, and Rhonda Scholl; his nephew and his niece, Bentlee Skirvin, Jaxson Skirvin and Harleigh Skirvin; his uncles and his aunts, Janet and Jeff Lewis, Rick Cole, Timmy and Angela Cole, Richard and Joann Skirvin, Kelly and Michael Craddock, Megan Scholl, Michael Young, and Tyler Bennett; many cousins and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Rheuben Skirvin, his paternal

grandmother, Mary Helen Willhoite, his maternal grandpa, Michael Scholl, and his brother, Kaleb Adam Skirvin.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, at 1 p.m., by Pastor Scott Kollmann at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Springdale Cemetery, 600 West Fifth Street in downtown Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dalton Skirvin Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

## Tracie Lea Phillips Johnston

Tracie Lea Phillips Johnston, age 50, of Indianapolis, IN, formerly of Jefferson County entered this life on Nov. 2, 1974, in Madison, IN. She was the loving daughter of Darrell and Jantette "Janice" Cyrus Phillips. She was raised in Jefferson County and graduated from Southwestern High School in 1992, and then attended Vincennes University for one year. Tracie was united in marriage to Isaac Johnston on July 26, 1996, in Indianapolis, IN. This union was blessed with two sons, Alexander and Richard. She was a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker. She enjoyed reading, writing, computer games, movies, and loved her cats. She had resided in Indianapolis the past 18 years. Tracie died on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, at 1:37 p.m., at the IU Health West Hospital in Avon, IN.

Tracie will be missed



by her husband, Isaac Johnston of Indianapolis, IN; her mother, Jantette "Janice" Fay Cyrus Phillips of Deputy, IN; her sons, Alexander Johnston of Indianapolis, IN, Richard Johnston of Indianapolis, IN; her brother, Darren Phillips and his fiancée, Amanda Neace of Deputy, IN; her sisters, Patricia Peck and her husband, Brian of Madison, IN, Tammy Marie Smith and her husband, Lawrence of Madison, IN; and other relatives.

She was preceded

in death by her father, Darrell Phillips, and her grandparents, Ivan and Rodia Hertz Cyrus and Stanley & Gertrude Phillips.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, at 2 p.m., by Pastor David Leland at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Springdale Cemetery, 600 West Fifth Street in downtown Madison, IN.

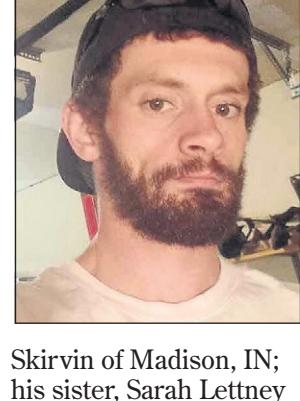
Friends may visit Sunday from 12 — 2 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to Animal Rescue or the Humane Society. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

## Kaleb Adam Skirvin

Kaleb Adam Skirvin, age 29, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Feb. 14, 1995, in Madison, IN. He was the son of Brian Keith Skirvin and Joyce Jackson. He resided all of his life in Jefferson County and received his GED from the Madison Christian Academy. He had worked at FAS Plastics, as a farm laborer, mechanic, and in construction. He was very mechanically inclined and could fix anything. He loved riding motorcycles, dirt bikes, fishing, hunting, and family bonfires. Kaleb died on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, at 3:53 a.m. in Madison, IN.

Kaleb will be missed by his father, Brian Keith Skirvin of Madison, IN; his mother, Joyce Jackson of Lexington, IN; his brothers, Kyle Skirvin of Madison, IN, Shay Truesdell of Madison, IN, Brian Michael Skirvin and his wife, Laken of Madison, IN, Jacob



Skirvin of Madison, IN; his sister, Sarah Lettyn of Milwaukee, WI; his nieces and his nephews, Bentlee Skirvin, Adalynn Kay Ann Skirvin, Jaxson Skirvin, and Harleigh Skirvin; his maternal grandmother, Beverly Kramer of Madison, IN; his uncles and his aunts, Janet and Jeff Lewis, Rick Cole, Timmy and Angela Cole, Richard and Joann Skirvin, Shane and Keri Jackson; several cousins and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandpa, Gary Russell Jackson, his paternal

grandpa, Rheuben Skirvin, his paternal grandma, Mary Hellen Willhoite, his brother, Dalton Keith Skirvin.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, at 1 p.m., by Pastor Scott Kollman at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Sharon Hill Cemetery near Hanover, IN.

Friends may visit Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kaleb Adams Skirvin Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

## James David Burr

James David Burr, 55, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 19, 2024, in Scottsburg, IN. Born on Oct. 26, 1969, in Louisville, KY, he was the son of James E. Burr, Jr. and Patricia Diane Lyons Dixon. David graduated from Scottsburg High School, class of 1988. He married his beloved wife, Sharon Gale Campbell Burr, Nov. 12, 2004. A devoted member of Scaffold Lick Baptist Church since 1980, David served on the church budget committee for numerous years. With a 35-year career at Morgan Foods, he held various positions. As a season ticket holder, David

followed the University of Louisville Cardinals since 1983, and Cincinnati Reds since infancy. He also supported Scottsburg High School sports



attending most events. Throughout his life, he actively participated in baseball and bowling leagues and enjoyed collecting baseball cards. David was a kind soul and loved to help others, he volunteered for We Care and Kids First yearly.

David is survived by his wife, Gale Burr, his mother,

Patricia Diane Dixon, aunt, Sue Filling, step-sisters, Evelyn Mae (Roger) Smith and Debbie (Joe) Tash and

step-brother, Keith Lee Dixon, Jr. as well as his best friends, Kevin Collins and David Christy.

He is preceded in death by his father, James E.

Burr, Jr. and grandparents,

Perry and Mona LaMaster

and Robert and Daisey

Lyons.

The service for James David Burr was held Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, at Collins Funeral Home, 465 W. McClain Avenue, Scottsburg. Friends could visit with David's family from 10 a.m. until service time at 2 p.m., Monday at Collins Funeral Home. Burial followed in Scottsburg Cemetery.

Memorial donations

can be made in James's

name to Kids First c/o

Scott County Community

Foundation. Online

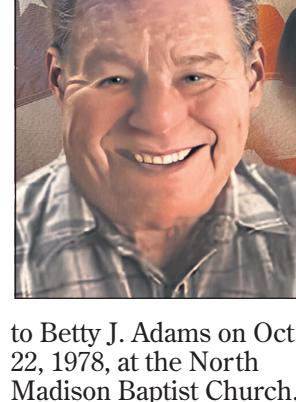
condolences can be

shared at [www.collinsfuneralhome.net](http://www.collinsfuneralhome.net).

Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

Larry Keith Gray, age 84, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Nov. 4, 1940, in Ripley County on Laughery Creek near Versailles. He was the loving son of the late Rufus Earl and Mildred Bess Etherton Gray. He resided in Jefferson County since the age of five and attended Central school there until he had to leave to help on the family farm. He was inducted into the United States Army on Dec. 2, 1963 in Madison, IN. He rose to the rate of Staff Sergeant during the Vietnam War Era. He was honorably discharged from the Reserves on Oct. 3, 1969. While serving in the Army he became an expert rifleman and taught marksmanship at Fort Hood, TX, Fort Bragg, NC, Fort Benning, GA, Fort McClellon, AL, Camp Atterbury near Columbus, IN, Fort Riley, KS, Battle Creek, MI, and Camp Perry in OH. He was nominated twice to go to the Olympics for his marksmanship but due to obligations at home he had to turn down the opportunity. He was united in marriage to Patricia Burke and they shared 13 years of marriage together and was blessed with a daughter Cynthia Carole. In 1966 he began a career with the Postal Service as a clerk carrier. He served for the next 30 years and retired on July 31, 1996. He enjoyed horseback riding, braking horses, watching the birds, clay pigeon shooting, being outdoors on his tractor, his dogs, and woodworking. He was united in marriage to Betty J. Adams on Oct. 22, 1978, at the North Madison Baptist Church. They had enjoyed 38 years of marriage upon her death on Nov. 25, 2017. He loved training horses and horseshoeing horses, he also worked for a time with the Clifty State Park helping with their horseback trails. He was a Christian who had attended Rykers Ridge Baptist Church and later First Assembly of God Church and was now a member of the River Valley Community Church. With his career in the Postal Service he met many people who became his friends, he sure never met a stranger in life. Keith was a self educated man who taught himself how to shoot, break horses, and wood working skills. His passion remained always with guns, shooting and teaching others how to use their guns. He really enjoyed watching old Westerns on television. Keith died on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, at his home in Madison, IN.

Keith will be missed by his loving daughter, Cindy Gray Carter and her husband, Steve of Madison, IN; his loving grandchildren, Wyatt Carter and his wife, Katelyn and Kealyn



Jester and her husband, Richard; his great grandchildren, Dawson, Leeah Kate, Colton, and Alaina; his brother, Rick Lee Gray of Canaan, Indiana; his cousin, Wilbur Weare and his wife, Carol of Lady Lake, FL; his very good friends who would check in on him, Jimmy and Ron, both of Madison, IN; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rufus Earl Gray; his mother, Mildred Bess Etherton Gray; his wife of 38 years, Betty J. Adams Gray, died Nov. 25, 2017, his brother, Ralph Earl Gray, and his still born sister, Martha Gray.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at 1 p.m., by Bro. Bob Hicks at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment followed in the Olive Branch Cemetery in Madison, IN.

Friends can visit Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

A final salute with military honors were provided by the Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 of the American Legion.

Memorial contributions can be made to Coffee Creek Conservation Club for a shoot in his memory. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

SEE OBITUARIES/PAGE A6

[www.madisoncourier.com](http://www.madisoncourier.com)



TV commercials advertise only the fluff when it comes to insurance.

What we want to know is how will my insurance do when the BIG ONE happens?

We invite you to call us to get a free no obligation review of your Medicare plan.

**KASPER INSURANCE**  
AND RETIREMENT SERVICES  
YOUR FRIENDLY AGENTS

220 Clifty Drive, Suite C, Madison 812-273-1187

## DEATH

FROM PAGE A2

**Deborah K. Singer,**

73, of Madison, IN, died Monday, Dec. 30, 2024, at Norton Brownsboro Hospital in Louisville.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

**Sandra Kay Snyder,** 81, of Carrollton, KY, died Monday, Dec. 30, 2024,

at her residence. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, KY, with interment to follow in the Mahoney Cemetery in Bedford, [www.ransdellfuneral.com](http://www.ransdellfuneral.com).

**Anthony Wayne Sowers,**

73, of Madison, IN, died

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, at his residence. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at Lytle

Weltly Funeral Home and

Cremation Service in

Madison, with interment to follow in the Indiana

Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Madison.

Military honors will be

conducted by the U.S. Army

and the Major Samuel

Woodfill Post 9 American

Legion in Madison, [www.lytleweltly.com](http://www.lytleweltly.com).

**Norbert Anthony**

"Tony" Steinhart Jr.,

Ret. Col. U.S. Army, 81,

of Madison, IN, died

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, at

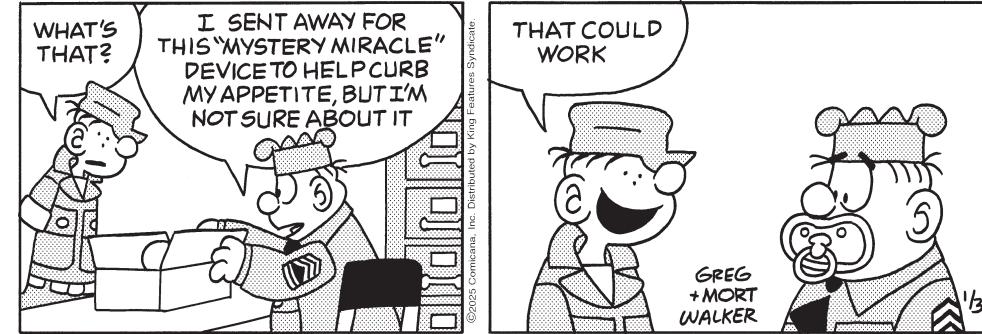
his home. Arrangements

will be announced by

Morgan-Nay Funeral

Center in Madison, [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

## BEETLE BAILEY

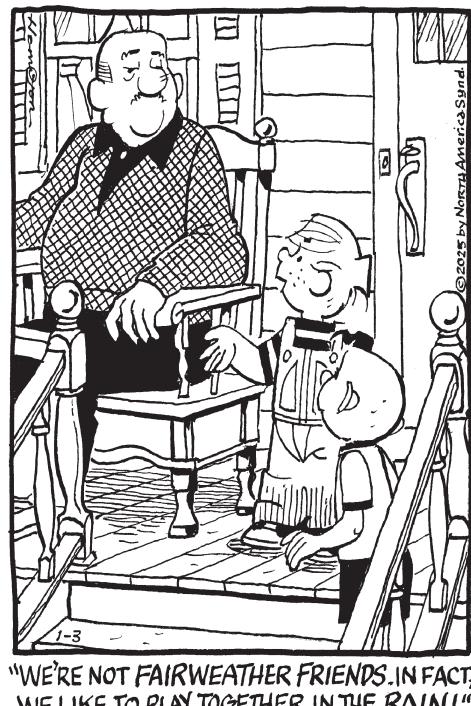
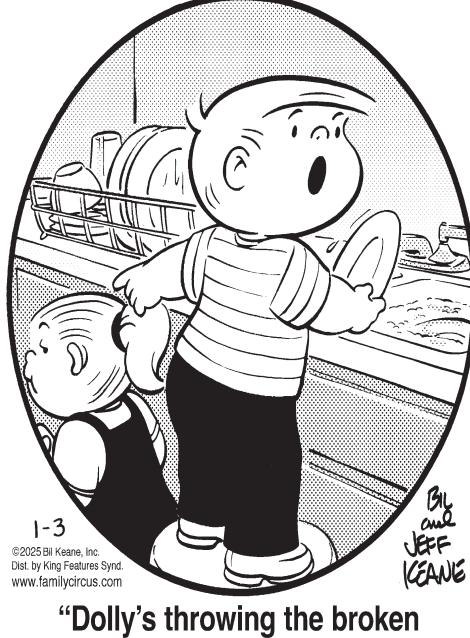


## FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

DENNIS THE MENACE



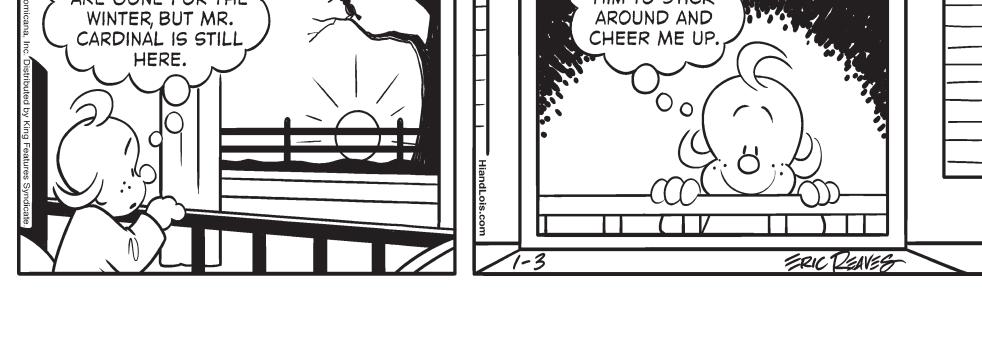
## BLONDIE



## BABY BLUES



## HI &amp; LOIS



## CURTIS



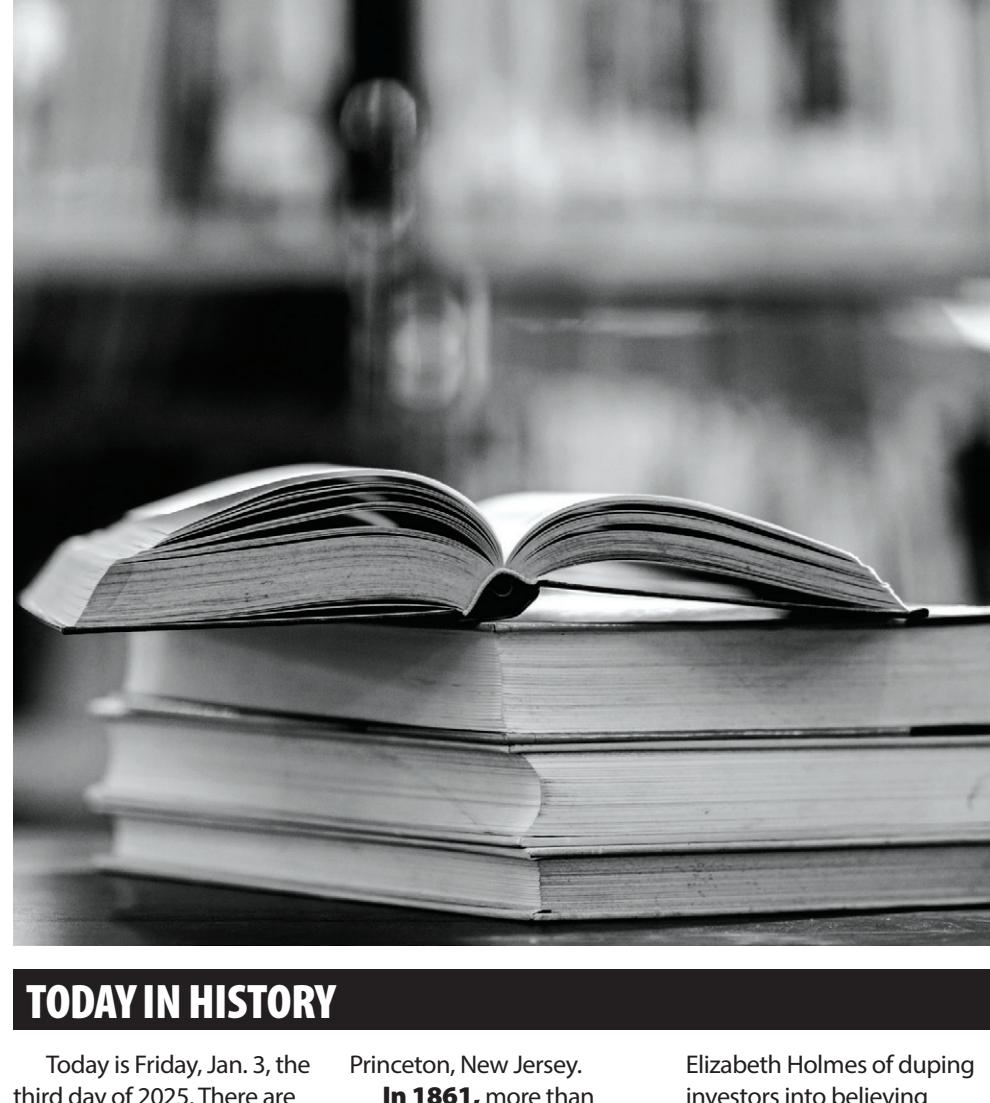
## WIZARD OF ID



## ZITS



## CRABGRASS



## GARFIELD



## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2025. There are 362 days left in the year.

## Today in history:

On Jan. 3, 1920, Boston Red Sox owner Harry

Frazee sold the contract of Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees, beginning a championship era for the Yankees and decades of heartache for Red Sox fans. (The Red Sox would ultimately break the "curse" in 2004, winning their first World Series in 86 years.)

## Also on this date:

In 1777, Gen. George

Washington's army routed British troops in the Battle of

Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1861, more than

two weeks before Georgia seceded from the Union, the state militia seized Fort Pulaski at the order of Gov. Joseph E. Brown.

In 1977, Apple

Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Markkula Jr.

In 1990, ousted

Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

In 2022, a jury in San

Jose, California, convicted

## PICKLES



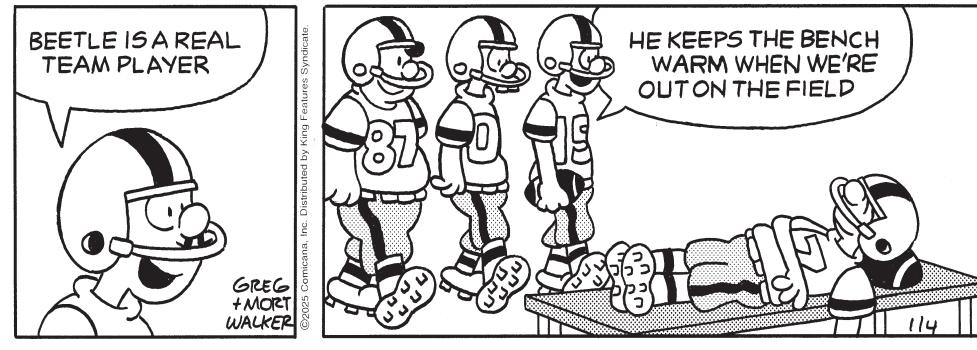
Elizabeth Holmes of duping investors into believing that her startup company Theranos had developed a revolutionary medical device that could detect diseases and conditions from a few drops of blood.

## Today's Birthdays:

Musician Stephen Stills is 80. Musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 79.

Actor-director Mel Gibson is 69. Basketball Hall of Famer Cheryl Miller is 61. Former NFL quarterback Eli Manning is 44. R&B singer Lloyd Polite, Jr. is 39. Actor Florence Pugh is 29. Environmental activist Greta Thunberg is 22.

## BEETLE BAILEY



## BLONDIE



## FAMILY CIRCUS

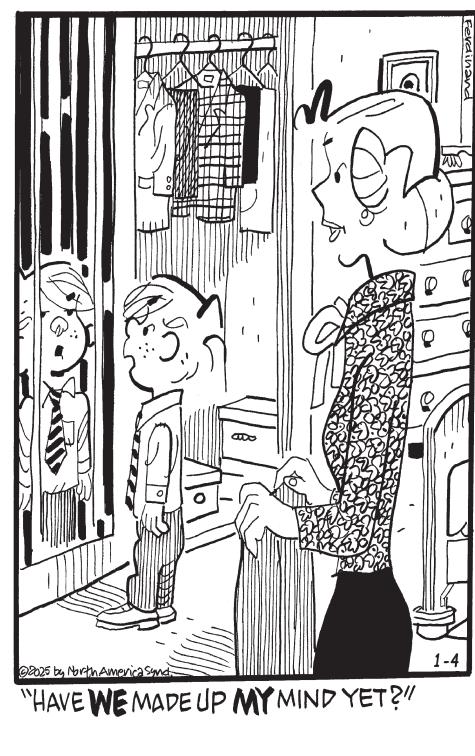
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

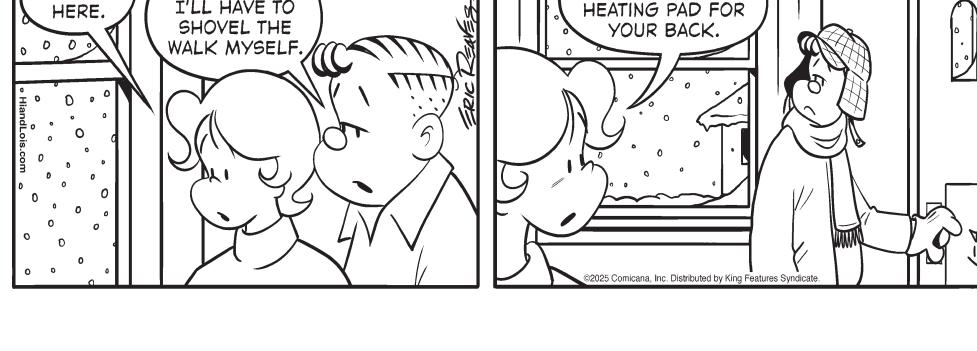
## DENNIS THE MENACE



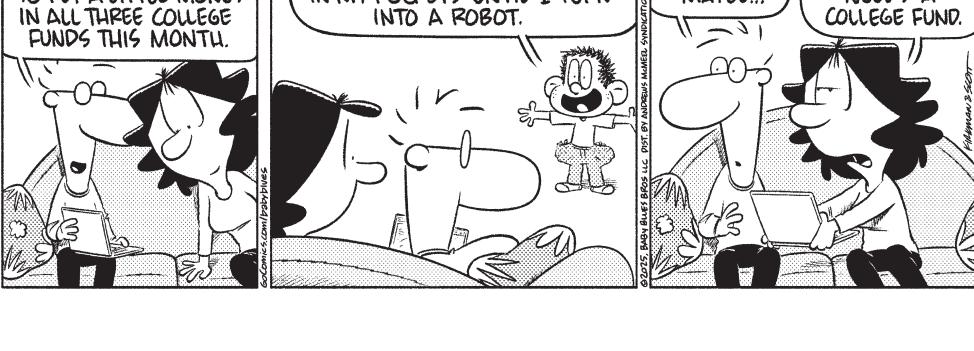
"To real people Mommy's name is Thel and Daddy's name is Bill."



## HI &amp; LOIS



## BABY BLUES



## BC



## CURTIS



## WIZARD OF ID



## ZITS



## CRABGRASS



## GARFIELD



## BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2025. There are 361 days left in the year.

## Today in history:

On Jan. 4, 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress.

## Also on this date:

**In 1853**, New Yorker Solomon Northup regained his freedom after being kidnapped in Washington, D.C., and forced into slavery in 1841; he would later tell his story in his memoir, "Twelve Years a Slave."

**In 1965**, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered

his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society" initiative.

**In 1974**, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

**In 1999**, Europe's new currency, the euro, got off to a strong start on its first trading day, rising against the dollar on world currency markets.

**In 2006**, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a significant stroke; his official powers were transferred to

his deputy, Ehud Olmert. (Sharon remained in a coma until his death in January 2014.)

**In 2010**, the Burj Khalifa, the tallest structure in the world, opened in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Dyan Cannon is 88. Guitarist John McLaughlin is 83. Author-historian Doris Kearns Goodwin is 82. Country singer Patty Loveless is 68. Singer Michael Stipe (R.E.M.) is 65. Actor Julia Ormond is 60. NFL running back Derrick Henry is 31. Singer-actor Coco Jones is 27. NBA center Victor Wembanyama is 21.

## PICKLES



# Magrath to replace Sharpe as Hanover town attorney in 2025

BY BOB DEMAREE

The town of Hanover will have a new attorney in the new year with the approval of Patrick Magrath to replace Devon Sharpe at Monday's town council meeting.

Sharpe has served as Hanover town attorney since contracting for those services on Jan. 2, 2018, and taking over after David Sutter stepped down as town attorney when he began serving as Jefferson County Prosecutor.

Sharpe, who in recent years has also served a half-contract as the county's Chief Public Defender, has seen that role increased to full-time with regards to casae assignments. He was hired as the administrator for the Jefferson County Public Defender Board in December 2020.

With Sharpe's role with the public defenders office



**Patrick Magrath**  
Hanover Town Attorney

expanding, Town Council President Debbie Kroger said he asked the town council to find other legal representation. "Devon

Sharpe will not be returning as our attorney. He's got other obligations that have filled his plate," she said. "I do want to thank Devon. He's worked really hard" and made himself accessible to the town council. "He's been super great and we're truly going to miss him."

The town already has a recent relationship with Magrath. "We have been using Pat Magrath to help us with our zoning" when Sharpe was unavailable "so I have talked to Pat and Pat is willing to come on," said Kroger. Magrath also serves as attorney for Jefferson County.

In other business, the council:

- Discussed concerns

related to speeding traffic on Volz Drive and whether the town should invest in the installation of speed bumps. Clerk-Treasurer Coby Cloud provided pricing for 4-inch speed bumps (42 inches long) at a cost of \$135 each and 6-inch speed bumps (72 inches long) at a cost of \$210. If five or more bumps are purchased, the 4-inch units can be bought for \$130 each and the 6-inch units for \$200 each.

There was concern expressed that installation would require drilling into the roadway to attach the bumps securely. Council Member Ben Sommer noted that water would freeze in any cracks created and that could "bust up the pavement." With it being the winter season, Kroger suggested the council hold off on a decision until spring.

• Agreed to renew the town's lease agreement with the Hanover Township Trustee for office space in the Hanover

Community Center, where the trustee's office has been located more than 10 years. The lease agreement provides for a \$200 per month payment.

• Approved a sub-grant of \$6,747.90 through the College and Community Collaboration grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. for two basketball goals, poles and installation at Fireman's Park. Also, funding through the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County has been utilized for paving the basketball court and fencing at the park.

• Established term lengths for members of the Board of Zoning Appeals with Kenny Degler and Ken Kraus Jr. both appointed for four years, Kathi Scroggins for three years, Nelson Ehlers for two years and Stan Totten for one year.

• Approved payment of \$2,513 to Wessler Engineering for work in conjunction with a slip lining project to repair city pipelines.

## HOUSE

FROM PAGE A1

A demolition permit was granted on Oct. 8, and the future of the house's seemed dire until Indiana Landmarks stepped in and reached out to the fraternity with an alternative plan that among others included the possibility of moving the house. In November, Sigma Chi agreed sell the house and property to Indiana Landmarks and the transaction was finalized Dec. 16. "We're grateful they were willing to sell it," said Sekula.

A vintage photo of the house includes notations that it was taken in 1882 and that the house was moved to Hanover from the vicinity of 14-Mile Creek near the New Washington area.

"Our plan is to rehabilitate the building as a single family property," said Sekula, guessing the cost would be in the range of \$200,000. "When we sell the property the bulk of that money will go back into a fund to be deployed with other projects" for Indiana Landmarks, he said, noting the revolving fund concept allows Indiana Landmarks to continue its work to save and preserve historic structures in Indiana.

Sekula said one of more striking elements of the house is a "beautiful staircase" with a unique design that features a main staircase that breaks off into two different directions.

He said the restoration is part of an historic revitalization that has already begun in Hanover with three other homes that Indiana Landmarks has been involved with at 263 East Main Street, 271 East Main Street and 318 East Main Street.

Through Hanover College's \$30 million College and Community Collaboration grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., there are plans for additional historic preservation in the town of Hanover. "Revitalization of Main Street and Madison Avenue quarters in Hanover is a fundamental piece of the grant project," Sekula said.

Indiana Landmarks has subcontracted with Kurt West Garner, a preservation consultant from Plymouth, Indiana, to begin work in January on a survey of historic resources in Hanover "with the aim of determining whether there's a potential historic district here in community" and determine if there's a possibility the Hanover town district could be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sekula said Indiana Landmarks is receiving grant funding support from the Lilly Endowment grant, characterized by the college as the "Jefferson Together" project, to support the restoration of the 119 Madison Avenue house, noting that it's "perfect timing" in providing a source of financial help for the rehabilitation of the house.

As part of Indiana Landmark's agreement with the college, Sekula said the college will have first right to purchase the building. "The main reason for that is they want to be able to offer the house as a recruitment tool for new faculty. Whether they have an interest to, they want to be able to at least offer this as an opportunity for a new faculty member to reside in the community," he said. "Their interest is not owning it, but in making it available as a first priority to a Hanover College faculty member should that opportunity be there."

The house had been owned by Bob and Lucile Millican since the mid 1940s and remained in the family until it was sold in May of 2022 to Johanna Coble of Louisville who then sold it to the fraternity in May of 2024. Before Coble sold the house, Sekula said she had work done on the floor of one room to

replace the floor and have new floor joists installed.

But there's much more to do. Last week, Sekula met with Megan Philippe, an architect who specializes in historic preservation, to develop plans for rehabilitation of the house. "Every space in the house will have to be reworked and refurbished," said Sekula, noting that it's all salvageable and once done "it'll be a nice comfortable house."

Sekula said restoration of the house at 119 Madison Avenue is a component in moving the town of Hanover through the revitalization process. "We want to keep the momentum going, and the college has the desire to see more improvements" with the hope of more "announcements in coming months about other projects that they are wanting to undertake as well" with the support of Lilly Endowment grant.

"Madison has got a lot of the attention (for its historic preservation) and deservedly so, but it's time for Hanover to have its day in the sun as well with these projects, and I know the college really wants to help improve the quality of life. I think the town officials are very excited as well. They're enthusiastic and supportive, so it's all a good thing," Sekula said.

## LEADER

FROM PAGE A1

When the April 3, 1974 tornado devastated Jefferson County, Steinhardt was Captain and Company Commander in Madison, organizing disaster relief efforts, opening the Armory as a shelter, leading search and rescue missions, and coordinating with local law enforcement, in which he was awarded the Indiana Commendation Medal.

In 2003, Steinhardt received the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Service Award that was presented by Sue Livers, who was quoted in The Madison Courier say-

ing, "His love of Madison is legendary. He knows enough about Madison's riverfront that it might as well be his own front yard. He loves to tell a good story, and loves even more to be a part of this community's story."

On Thursday morning, Madison Mayor Bob Courtney had the following statement, "The City of Madison expresses its sympathy to the family of Tony Steinhardt Jr. It is really hard to describe Tony in just a few words because he was truly larger than life. Whether it was his entrepreneurial spirit, his love for his family and community or dedicating his life to Miss Madison and the Madison Regatta, Tony will be remembered for all of that and especially

his kindness and his sense of humor. I had the honor of presenting him with the 2024 Jon Menke award recently which recognized his military service to our country, and we had multiple conversations afterwards about Madison and hydroplane racing! Tony's legacy is so big they made a movie about him and Miss Madison. God Bless the family and our community over the loss of Tony Steinhardt Jr."

Scott Tebbe, business manager and one of the owners of Steinhardt Heating and Air Conditioning, said, "Tony embodied the essence of Madison. He was there when Madison needed someone," specifically citing the 1974 tornado, along with serving as team man-

ager for the Gold Cup win by Miss Madison in 1971 and being a leader in many local organizations. "His generosity and his heart for and towards the Madison community, along his work ethic, leading his companies were unmatched."

Tebbe said for him "it has been the biggest honor over the past 25 years to have called Tony a mentor, business partner, colleague and close friend. His laughter, smile and loving of cooking and entertaining will always be remembered as well as his hydroplane stories and knowledge."

Former Miss Madison driver Steve David said he remembers loving to attend the gathering hosted by Tony and Phyllis Steinhardt each year

## OBITUARY

### Ann Ellen Berger Moore

Ann Ellen Berger Moore, a beloved teacher, devoted wife, and loving mother, passed away peacefully on Dec. 28, 2024, at the age of 81 in the emergency room of Norton King's Daughters' Hospital in Madison, IN. Born on Nov. 5, 1943, in Lenox, IA, to Harriet and Orval John Berger, Ann Ellen lived a life full of adventure, faith, and dedication to her family and students. Ann Ellen earned her teaching degree from Mundelein College in Chicago, IL, and soon after embraced a call to adventure, moving to Las Cruces, New Mexico, to teach at Holy Cross School.

It was there she met Michael Strauss Moore, who was stationed there for the military. They were brought together by fate through a chance introduction by German nuns who spoke very little English. Their shared values and love for one another led to their marriage in Clinton, IA, and the start of a life filled with love, resilience, and growth. The couple had four children across four cities before settling in Madison, IN, where Ann Ellen taught fourth grade at Pope John XXIII for over 30 years. She had a deep passion for teaching, famously stating that she never wanted to change grades because she understood a nine-year-old's

sense of humor. Her classroom was filled with laughter, learning, and encouragement, leaving an indelible mark on countless students. Ann Ellen Moore's life was a testament to love, service, and joy. She will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by the countless lives she touched.

Ann Ellen's life was enriched by her love of teaching, her family, and her faith. She is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Michael Strauss Moore, Sr. of Madison, IN; her son, Michael Strauss Moore, Jr. of Evansville, IN; her daughters, Janet Ann Hopwood and her husband, Ron of Zionsville, IN, Amanda Ann Blohm and her husband, Bryon of Zionsville, IN; her grandchildren, Isabel Moore, Anabel Moore, Maribel Moore,



Sayge Hopwood, Quinn Hopwood, Isla Blohm, and Sophia Blohm who will carry forward her legacy of kindness and strength; her brothers, David Dion Berger and his wife, Mary Lee of Williamsburg, VA; Steven John Berger and his wife, Valerie of Robbinsdale, MN; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Orval John Berger; her mother, Harriet Ann Hocking Berger; her son, David Patrick Moore; her sister in law, Carolyn Sue Hautamaki.

Funeral Mass will be conducted Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, at 11 a.m., by Father Christopher A. Craig at the St. Patrick Catholic Chapel, 305 West State Street in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery, 305 West State Street in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, from 4 — 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, from 9 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

The Rosary will be prayed on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at 7 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Friends of Shawe & Pope John (to support the reading program for the students of Pope John XXIII Elementary School in Ann Ellen's honor, reflecting her lifelong commitment to nurturing young minds and building a better future).

Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

## BORROW

FROM PAGE A1

more closely monitor and regulate expenditures and allocate funds during the budget process in a way that aligns with where that money is ultimately needed.

The last council meeting for 2024 dealt with accounting transfers for year-end reporting purposes, which had no impact

on the overall 2024 budget, and action on a temporary transfer to eliminate a deficit in the Parks Department," Courtney said of the one-hour meeting. "While 2024 saw major capital improvements for Gaines Park, Crystal Beach, the Comfort Station, and the new Ohio River Legacy Park, park operations experienced a deficit due to lower tax levy, unexpected capital expenditures, and much

greater spending on seasonal labor. We will be educating our staff on the budgetary implications of these variables and implement new procurement standards to ensure that Parks will operate within their approved budget going forward. Our parks staff and the park board work hard to bring great experiences and recreational programming to the community and that will not change."

The council faced a similar situation when it had to borrow money to cover a shortfall in the city's solid waste department last year. As a result, a months long study of that department was conducted that produced a new rate structure paid by users with upgrades to technology, equipment and procedures to make the operation more efficient and the fees users pay for trash collection in line with the cost of

services.

Courtney and parks board chair Carla Krebs, who represents the city council on that board, noted that a similar study is already underway in the parks department, with a new rate structure being developed for the coming parks season. In addition, Courtney is proposing adjusting the city's tax levy to earmark more funding for parks, a move that will not result in new taxes but

didn't go well or there to celebrate when it did. He was always there, not looking for limelight himself, but always part of the team. He never gave up. When they were a back marker and when they were up, he was always there."

Steinhardt, a lifelong Madison resident and 1961 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School who had formerly attended Shawe Memorial, was the son of Norbert Anthony Sr. and Anna Steinhardt.

In addition to Phyllis Steinhardt, his wife of 59 years, he is survived by sons, Scott Steinhardt and Tony Steinhardt III. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison.

a shift in the way the tax dollars that are collected are allocated.

District 1 Council member Patrick Thevenow voiced opposition to loaning money from utilities to parks and noted that the situation the city is dealing with this year is different than the problem solving implemented for the solid waste department last year.

SEE BORROW/PAGE A8

# Popular decongestant may soon vanish from store shelves

The most popular nasal decongestant on U.S. pharmacy shelves may not be there much longer

BY MATTHEW PERRONE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Changes are coming to the cold and cough aisle of your local pharmacy: U.S. officials are moving to phase out the leading decongestant found in hundreds of over-the-counter medicines, concluding that it doesn't actually relieve nasal congestion.

Phenylephrine is used in popular versions of Sudafed, Dayquil and other medications, but experts have long questioned its effectiveness. Last month the Food and Drug Administration formally proposed revoking its use in pills and liquid solutions, kicking off a process that's likely to force drugmakers to remove or reformulate products.

It's a win for skeptical academics, including researchers at the University of Florida who

petitioned the FDA to revisit the drug's use in 2007 and again in 2015. For consumers it will likely mean switching to alternatives, including an older decongestant that was moved behind the pharmacy counter nearly 20 years ago.

Doctors say Americans will be better off without phenylephrine, which is often combined with other medicines to treat cold, flu, fever and allergies.

"People walk into the drugstore today and see 55,000 medicines on the shelf and they pick one that is definitely not going to work," said Dr. Brian Schroer of the Cleveland Clinic. "You take away that option and it will be easier for them to self-direct toward products that really will help them."

## WHY IS FDA DOING THIS NOW?

The FDA decision was expected after federal advisers last year voted unanimously that oral phenylephrine medications haven't been shown to relieve congestion.

Experts reviewed several recent, large studies indicating that phenylephrine was no better than a placebo at clearing nasal

passageways. They also revisited studies from the 1960s and 1970s that supported the drug's initial use, finding numerous flaws and questionable data.

The panel's opinion only applied to phenylephrine in oral medications, which account for roughly \$1.8 billion in annual U.S. sales. The drug is still considered effective in nasal sprays, though those are much less popular.

Phenylephrine wasn't always the top choice for cold and allergy products. Many were originally formulated with a different drug, pseudoephedrine.

But a 2006 law required pharmacies to move pseudoephedrine products behind the counter, citing their potential to be processed into methamphetamine. Companies such as Johnson & Johnson and Bayer decided to reformulate their products to keep them readily available on store shelves — and labeled many of them as "PE" versions of familiar brand names.

## WHAT ARE SOME ALTERNATIVES FOR CONGESTION?

Consumers who still want to take pills or syrups for relief will



Decongestant pills containing phenylephrine are displayed for a photograph in Philadelphia on Dec. 9.

probably need to head to the pharmacy counter — where the pseudoephedrine-containing versions of Sudafed, Claritin D and other products remain available without a prescription. Purchasers need to provide a photo ID.

Beyond those products, most of the other options are over-the-counter nasal sprays or solutions.

Saline drops and rinses are a quick way to clear mucus from the nose. For long-term relief from seasonal stuffiness, itching and sneezing, many doctors

recommend nasal steroids, sold as Flonase, Nasacort and Rhinocort.

"These medicines are by far the most effective daily treatment for nasal congestion and stuffiness," Schroer said. "The biggest issue is they're not great when used on an as-needed basis."

Nasal steroids generally have to be used daily to be highly effective. For short-term relief, patients can try antihistamine sprays, such as Astepro, which are faster acting.

# Medicaid, prior authorization dominate 2025 agenda

## Chances for marijuana legalization? Much slimmer

BY WHITNEY DOWNARD  
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

INDIANAPOLIS — A revenue report from mid-December determined that incoming monies would be sluggish over the next two years, with barely any new dollars expected to hit Indiana's coffers. Much of that funding will be swallowed up by Medicaid costs, which are growing at a faster rate than the state's revenues.

Unlike many of his colleagues, Sen. Ed Charbonneau remains upbeat, noting that projected funds are still above current levels and not dipping lower — allowing for some wiggle room.

"I'm approaching this next session, I think, a little bit more positively than most everybody else," said the Valparaiso Republican at an annual legislative conference in mid-December. "My fear was that if the revenue projections were not ... as good as they are ... (budget writers would) go ahead and start looking for places to cut."

But Republican leaders quickly dismissed any notion that 2025 could be the year Indiana ends its prohibition on marijuana.

In addition to Charbonneau, House Speaker Todd Huston and Senate Majority Leader Rodric Bray both expressed concerns about legalizing the drug for either medicinal or recreational use.

Bray said states like Colorado, one of the first to legalize the drug for recreational use, aren't making much tax revenue because proceeds have to be reinvested into social services and crime prevention. Huston, R-Fishers, pointed to an uptick in cannabis use disorder and conflicting studies about mental health benefits.

"It's no secret that I am not for this. I don't have people coming to me with really compelling medical cases as to why it's so beneficial," said Bray, R-Martinsville. "And any case that I've ever seen, or any state that I've seen, pass medical marijuana is essentially passing recreational marijuana."

Gov.-elect Mike Braun, also a Republican, has indicated his openness to exploring medical marijuana but opposed legalizing cannabis for recreational use.

Senate Democrats, on the other hand, pushed for

potential for revenue, its popularity among Hoosiers and potential for treating medical conditions.

"Polls suggest it is very highly desired by Hoosiers, I think, and brings in additional tax revenue. Sooner or later, we're going to have to create more policy because all the states around us (have access)," said Sen. David Niezgodski, whose South Bend district borders Michigan, which has recreational access.

"People are going across and they're buying more than the residents," the Democrat continued.

## THE FUTURE OF MEDICAID

Even as funds dwindle, Democrat Rep. Robin Shackleford said the services provided by Medicaid are also a way to measure the program, which covers nearly two million Hoosiers.

"I know we have less revenues coming in and Medicaid rates increasingly keep going up, but, at the end of the day, I'm going to define success in what our Medicaid program looks like," Shackleford said.

Shackleford, an insurance broker, pointed to the need for more dollars invested in prevention. For elderly Hoosiers, falls — which can be averted by installing bars or using bath seats — are the number one cause of injury-related deaths.

And though elderly Hoosiers account for a smaller portion of Medicaid enrollees, just 6%, this same population accounts for 44% of Medicaid expenditures.

Additionally, most of Indiana's Medicaid costs are covered by the federal government — roughly two-thirds of most programs and 90% of Healthy Indiana Plan beneficiaries. The remaining 10% of the latter program is covered by cigarette taxes and hospital fees.

Rep. Brad Barrett, at the same panel, noted that both the state and federal governments will have new leaders, bringing the potential for massive change.

"Where all these other pieces are changing, I feel like we have an opportunity," said Barrett, a Republican from Richmond.

One particular focus for Shackleford and Barrett will be lowering Indiana's obesity rate, which Shackleford said cost the state economy \$9.3 billion in 2022, \$966 million of which had a direct impact on the state budget.

One of my pieces of legislation is to see if Medicaid can cover those drugs for chronic obe-

sity," Shackleford said, referring to the coverage of GLP-1s. That drug category includes medications produced by Eli Lilly but can be prohibitively expensive for insurance plans to cover.

"I haven't received the fiscal impact on it but, in my eyes, to do a true cost-benefit analysis on it you will have to think about what is our investment that we pay for this drug versus someone now having to come off of all their diabetic drugs," Shackleford said.

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN TERMS OF LEGISLATION

At least one bill in the upcoming session will be familiar to the legislature: a bill seeking to restrict the use of prior authorization.

Emergency room physician Sen. Tyler Johnson said he regularly saw patients in the emergency department whose health worsened while waiting for prior authorization approvals or had previously been denied care.

"If you're in the physician world for two seconds, you realize very quickly that it's just a strain on the system," said Johnson, R-Leo. "I didn't go into medicine to fight back and forth with the insurance company to get paid for something or give the patient an appropriate procedure, right?"

"That's really the answer: we're providing something that we think the patient needs and now the insurance company is saying, 'Well, they don't need that,'" he continued.

According to the American Medical Association, 94% of physicians reported care delays due to prior authorization, including 24% who reported that such delays had led to a serious adverse event.

Johnson's effort in the 2024 legislative session was considered a priority by his caucus but didn't get out of the chamber. To improve its chances in 2025, Johnson said he spent the interim meeting regularly with stakeholders to identify "sticking points."

"We've found a very good framework on how to (improve) the back and forth between the insurer and the hospitals. They both really didn't like how they interacted with each other, but could never really come to a solution," Johnson said. "... hopefully we can streamline and get a lot of questions and inefficiency out of it."

Other familiar topics include the potential to regulate pharmacy benefit managers, non-compete

agreements for health care providers, scrutinizing medical debt and increasing tobacco taxes.

The House has passed such an increase a handful of times but Johnson and Charbonneau's chamber has declined to act.

Charbonneau said circumstances could be different in 2025 with such a tight budget.

"With the revenue picture looking like it does, with Medicaid being such a huge part of the problem, maybe it's time we really look at this," Charbonneau said.

The committee chair also had at least one previously unheard idea: prohibiting any Hoosier

born after June 30, 2004 from ever purchasing tobacco products. He said he believed the fiscal impact would be relatively small but rewards could be huge — Indiana has a higher adult smoking rate than the national average, according to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

Curbing tobacco use is frequently a target of public health funding efforts because it brings down Indiana's overall health metrics.

According to the state's public health program, youth e-cigarette use — or vaping — has exploded, increasing from 3.8% in 2012 to 19.8% in 2021.

"It's going to take 50

years or something but we'll be smoke free," Charbonneau said.

Another potential target could be gathering information on Indiana hospital enrollment in the national 340B program, which is funded by medication discounts meant to help safety net hospitals. Some question whether the program actually assists needy patients or simply helps hospitals generate more revenue.

"I think that's why we need data to really understand — and for the public to understand — what's going on," Charbonneau said. "And it may be totally legal, but it just doesn't seem right."

## Your Simple Guide to a Financially Secure Retirement Budgeting and Beyond



## How Insurance Companies Invest Your Premiums

By Stephen Dybwad  
Retirement Planning/  
Wealth Management

Managing investments is a core function of insurance companies, much like trying to achieve a perfect balance between offense and defense in a game of football.

How Insurance Companies Invest Money

Insurance companies handle vast sums of money, known as premiums, paid by policyholders. They must invest these funds wisely to ensure they can cover claims and expenses and still make a profit. The challenge is compounded by factors such as inflation and skyrocketing expenses.

1. The Offensive Strategy: Generating Returns Like a football team seeking to score, insurance companies must aim to generate investment returns. This means investing in various financial instruments, including:

• Bonds: A significant portion of an insurer's portfolio is typically invested in bonds.

Bonds are considered generally a safer bet and provide regular interest income, like a steady-running game that gains yardage consistently.

• Stocks: Some insurers may invest in equities to potentially achieve higher returns. This approach is riskier and is akin to a passing game that can result in big gains or potential losses.

• Real Estate: Investing in real estate properties provides a mix of a steady income and potential appreciation. It's a versatile play that can adapt to various market conditions.

2. The Defensive Strategy: Managing Risks Insurance companies must also play defense, protecting against inflation, economic volatility, and skyrocketing expenses. The defense consists of several coordinated plays:

• Diversification: Spreading investments across various asset classes helps minimize risks, much like a well-coordinated defensive line in football. If one investment falters, others may still perform well.

• Matching Liabilities: Insurance companies must ensure they have enough liquidity to cover claims and expenses. This is like having strong defenders ready to stop the opposing team. They achieve this through careful matching of investments with liabilities, often opting for bonds with maturities that align with expected payouts.

• Hedging Against Inflation: Inflation erodes the real value of returns. Insurers might invest in assets that tend to do well during inflationary periods, like commodities or inflation-linked bonds. It's a strategic play to counter an opponent's move.

3. Regulatory Compliance and Reserve Requirements: Insurance companies operate under strict regulations and must maintain reserves to ensure they can cover claims. This is like the rulebook in football; you have to play within the lines and maintain discipline.

4. Technological Innovations and Data Analytics: Advanced analytics, like a coach's eye for strategy, help insurers forecast trends, understand risks, and make more informed investment decisions. Technology is becoming the offensive coordinator of the investment strategy.

### Final Whistle: A Complex Game

The task of investing money for insurance companies is a complex game that requires a delicate balance between offense (generating returns) and defense (managing risks). It involves diverse strategies, close adherence to regulations, and continuous adaptation to economic conditions, including inflation and fluctuating expenses.

Just as in football, where each play contributes to the game's outcome, every investment decision made by an insurance company is a calculated move toward financial stability and growth.

So, the next time you think about insurance, imagine the intricate plays, the strategic moves, and the constant push and pull of offense and defense. It's a game that never ends and has incredibly high stakes, that is why constant due diligence becomes essential.

Stephen Dybwad, a long-time Hoosier resident, is a member of Syndicated Columnists, a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

Kasper Insurance  
220 Clift Drive  
Madison, IN 47250  
Telephone 812-273-1187.  
Stephen Dybwad  
(retirevillage.com)

# FBI seeks clues about truck attack that killed 15

New Orleans plans to reopen Bourbon Street

BY ERIC TUCKER, JIM MUSTIAN, KEVIN MCGILL AND JACK BROOK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans pressed ahead with plans to reopen the city's famed Bourbon Street on Thursday as investigators kept digging into the background of the U.S. Army

veteran who drove a pickup truck into a crowd of New Year's revelers, killing 15 people.

The FBI said it was investigating the attack, which occurred when 42-year-old Shamsud-Din Jabbar steered around a police blockade, as a terrorist act. Investigators believe the driver was inspired by the Islamic State group.

Authorities recovered a black flag of the Islamic State in the truck, and

President Joe Biden said he was told by the FBI that Jabbar, a U.S. citizen from Texas, had posted videos to social media hours before the carnage that showed he was motivated by the militant group and expressed a desire to kill.

He was shot to death by police, and the FBI said Wednesday that it believed he did not act alone. Investigators found guns and what appeared to be an improvised explosive device in

the vehicle, along with other explosive devices elsewhere in the French Quarter.

Officials fanned out to serve search warrants and spent hours at a Houston-area home thought to be connected to the investigation. But as of Thursday morning, no additional arrests were known to have been made, and it was unclear if the FBI was still actively looking for more suspects.

The rampage turned festive Bourbon Street into a

macabre scene of maimed victims, bloodied bodies and pedestrians fleeing for safety inside nightclubs and restaurants. In addition to the dead, dozens of people were hurt.

Zion Parsons, 18, of Gulfport, Mississippi, said he saw the truck "barreling through, throwing people like in a movie scene, throwing people into the air."

"Bodies, bodies all up and down the street, everybody screaming and hollering," said Parsons, whose

friend Nikyra Dedeaux was among the dead.

But by Thursday, a still-reeling city was inching back toward normal operations. Authorities finished processing the scene early in the morning, removing the last of the bodies, and Bourbon Street was set to reopen at some point later in the day, according to an official familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press.

## SHOWS

FROM PAGE A1

welcoming community and a place where we could really put down roots.

"I'm teaching music appreciation at Ivy Tech here in Madison, plus I have anywhere from 15 to 20 piano students a week that I teach out of my home. I have a few students as young as 5 years old, although I prefer to start them at more like 7 or 8. And then I have adult students of all ages. With the kids we have to



Handout  
Madison Performing Arts Foundation

compete with sports and all the other activities, but if they are dedicated and put in the practice, they can become quite proficient rather quickly.

"We came to Madison late in our lives, and in some respects we were starting over, building brand new lives. But we

love it here so much! I think classical music is alive and well here. I tell people to just give it a try, really allow yourself to be immersed in the beauty and complexity of it. For most people, once they truly experience it, especially in the intimate settings we can provide at our MPAF shows, then you will love it. You'll become a fan for life.

### HOT TIP OF THE WEEK

If the weekend calendar looks a little light this week, that's because everybody (and I mean EVERYBODY) went all

out for New Year's Eve on Tuesday and they are catching their breath. Tuesday night in Madison there was live music at NINE places, with ticketed shows at three venues and walk-in no cover charge music at the other six.

That being said, there is still music Wednesday through Sunday at a few spots, thanks to our stalwart friends at Rivertown Grill downtown and Tailgators up on the hilltop. And honestly, it wouldn't surprise me if some more live music didn't pop up around town on short notice, at Off

Broadway Taproom or a few other spots.

The best policy, as always in Madison, is to park your car somewhere around Second and Mulberry streets in the heart of things, and then just walk the music district, enjoying the safe small town vibe and seeing what's popping! There's always something going on in Indiana's Music City.

Charlie Rohlwing is a retired advertising man and partner in The Red Bicycle Hall music venue. Look for his distinctive fedora bobbing above the crowd, anywhere live local

music is happening.

### MUSIC EVENTS SCHEDULE

#### Friday, January 3

Tailgators — Soulshine  
(9 p.m.-1 a.m.)  
Rivertown Grill — Rachel Holt (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)

#### Saturday, January 4

Rivertown Grill — B.A. Blues Band (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)  
Tailgators — Killin Smalls (9 p.m.-1 a.m.)  
Fairgrounds — For the Love of Bluegrass (& Gospel & Country) (2-6 p.m.)

#### Sunday, January 5

Rivertown Grill — Micheal Anthony Trapp (7-10 p.m.)

## BORROW

FROM PAGE A6

"The solid waste and transfer station was more definitive," he said, indicating that solid waste is a service used by every household while use of parks facilities is more abstract. He also questioned how such a large deficit was allowed to accumulate. "I'm disappointed at such a large deficit ... I think we should leave the deficit and just have the state give us a ding in the audit."

Thevenow also noted

that if the city still maintained a "rainy day fund" it would have had the money to cover such budget crises and not have to borrow from other departments.

Courtney said the issues the city has dealt with over the past few years are "much larger than a rainy day" with the COVID pandemic, flash flooding and the closing of Crystal Beach for two years while the old pool was demolished and a new aquatic park was planned, designed and constructed. "It's been pouring down!"

He said the COVID year canceled parks activities

and some have been slow to recover, the pool closing was another hit but the new aquatic park has been well received, Sunrise Golf Course is dealing with deferred maintenance and expenditures for seasonal help ran higher than anticipated and Brown Gym was getting a refresh in some areas prior to the facility's 100th anniversary in 2025.

Krebs said as parks board chair she "feels partially responsible" for the budget issues but told her fellow council members that the parks board is addressing those issues. "I assure you we do have

a plan, there will be major changes and we will earn back your trust."

In addition to revised fee structures there will be efforts made to better manage seasonal help and purchasing.

Local resident Charlie Ferguson addressed the council and noted as a seasonal worker at Sunrise Golf Course he was "offended" that inefficiencies within the seasonal staff be mentioned as a factor in the shortfalls and noted the city should either raise taxes to cover parks expenses or stop building and developing

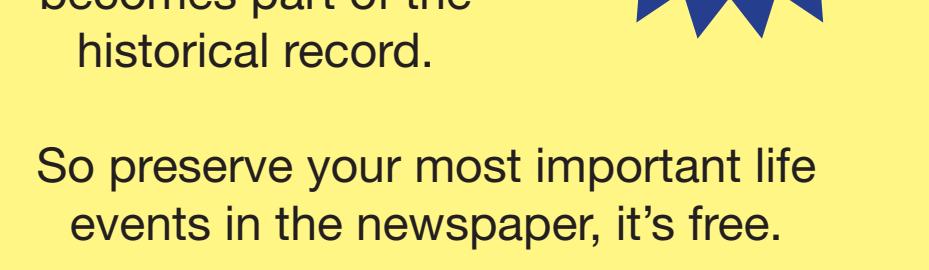
new parks that cannot pay for themselves.

Courtney said most of the cost overruns in the parks department can be corrected with better maintenance and purchasing practices and a fee structure that is consistent with the service being provided to patrons whether it's the pool, golf course, Rucker Sports Complex, campground or Brown Gym. He noted that the majority of Madison's 24 parks are open to the public — city and county residents as well as all visitors to the Madison — free of charge.

"We're not ready to close our parks or shutter Brown Gym," he noted, adding that the new parks that are being developed are an asset to Madison and the area in that they make the community a desirable play to visit, live and do business. He cited the new Gateway Park and sculpture near the Milton-Madison Bridge as an example. "Would we rather have a tattoo parlor or abandoned buildings there?"

In the end the council voted 5-1 in favor of the transfer of funds with only Thevenow opposing and Council member Joshua Schafer absent.

## Preserve YOUR place in your community's history



Everything we publish becomes part of the historical record.

So preserve your most important life events in the newspaper, it's free.

Submit your announcements at

[www.madisoncourier.com](http://www.madisoncourier.com)

**Published FREE**  
In Your Local Newspaper

2025

Happy New Year!

Jump start the new year with a subscription to your local newspaper!

Send me 12 months' of The Madison Courier for just \$45<sup>00</sup>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

All information and payment required to receive this special non-refundable offer. Offer only available to new subscribers in our local delivery area who have not had a subscription in the last 3 months. If you respond to this offer but do not qualify for introductory pricing, the expiration date will be prorated to match the payment to your current rate. Your subscription includes 24/7 digital access to all content available online. Your subscription expiration date is automatic after a 28-day grace period.

Yes, I authorize The Madison Courier to instruct my credit/debit card company to debit my credit/debit card account as I have requested above. Hurry! Offer expires Jan. 31, 2025.

**2 WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE & SAVE!**

CALL

812-265-3641



CLIP & MAIL

P.O. Box 1480

Owensboro, KY 42302



www.madisoncourier.com

## BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

## Hanover men drop two games in Otterbein Classic

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Hanover College men's basketball lost a pair of games in the Otterbein Classic earlier this week.

On Sunday night, the Panthers suffered an 82-70 setback to Denison and then on Monday, fell 84-69 to host Otterbein.

Jeremiah Alexander scored 21 points to lead Hanover in the loss to Denison. Malachi McNair had 12 points and 10 rebounds, Cole-

man Sater and Madison's Luke Miller each scored 11 points and Madison's Jack Miller had 10 points.

McNair had 19 points and Sater scored 16 in the loss to Otterbein. Luke Miller added 12 points and Alexander had 10.

Hanover, now 6-5 on the season, returns to Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference play on Saturday when it travels to Bluffton. The Panthers then head to Transylvania on Wednesday.

## TRIMBLE FALLS TO ANDERSON

Trimble County boys basketball emerged from its Kentuckiana Shootout holiday event with a 79-39 loss at Anderson County on Monday.

The host Bearcats shot 52% from the field and put four players in double figures led by Calvin Ruble with 20 points. Noah Beasley posted a double double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Trimble, now 3-9 on the season, hosts Valley as part of a boys-girls doubleheader on Friday and faces Walton-Verona in the opening game of the seven team All "A" Classic Eighth Region Tournament at Owen County on Monday.

## CARROLL BOYS POSTPONED

Carroll County boys basketball has canceled its game with Walton-Verona on Thursday, Jan.

2 and postponed playing Ludlow on Jan. 4 due to illness.

The team, just off a 1-2 run in the Kentuckiana Shootout at Trimble County, has enough players who are battling illness that the decision was made to cancel the next two contests before the school returns to classes on Jan. 7. The Walton-Verona game will not be made up and a make-up date for the Ludlow game has not yet been set.

## MADISON COURIER FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## Dyer was catalyst for Madison's magical season

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Madison football had its share of big plays during its magical 2024 season and at the middle of seemingly every one was senior Jake Dyer.

Whether it was catching long touchdown passes, returning kicks for touchdowns, intercepting passes or even lining up at running back, Dyer did a lot of everything for a Madison team that reached the sectional championship game for the first time since 1991.

"He never took a play off at practice. He's one of them gifted kids that just wants to make everybody and everything around him better," Madison coach Charles Benintende said. "He leads by example. He just rolls up his sleeves and gets to work and doesn't say much and lets his actions on the field speak louder than the words from his mouth. He's a special player."

It's no surprise that Dyer is this year's Madison Courier Football Player of the Year. From the very first play of the season — an 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown — to the last — a possible game-winning pass interference penalty in the end zone that wasn't called — Dyer affected nearly every aspect of the Cubs' season.

"Just a gift of a football player," Benintende said of Dyer. "I would say once in a generation."

Dyer knew that a lot would be expected of him. As one of the few seniors on the roster and with a new coach in charge, Dyer felt that his presence would be needed both on and



Madison Consolidated High School senior Jake Dyer is the Madison Courier Football Player of the Year for 2024.

MADISON COURIER FOOTBALL ALL-COURIERAREA TEAM	
Name	School
Taytem Anderson	Madison
Alex Bailey	Switzerland Co.
Bryson Chadwell	Carroll Co.
Jason Cosby	Madison
Austin Dailey	Madison
Garrett Deuser	Madison
Jake Dyer	Madison
Matt McCarty	Carroll Co.
Keaton Mosley	Switzerland Co.
Parker Mumphrey	Carroll Co.
Zach Rice	Trimble Co.
Joseph Stanley	Madison
Peyton Stewart	Madison
Karson Vaught	Carroll Co.
Ayden Waggoner	Madison
Michael Young	Switzerland Co.
"Player of the Year"	

off the field.

While not shy, Dyer was also never the rah-rah type, but he was determined to be the leader the Cubs needed.

"I feel like my role was to just

set an example for the younger guys," Dyer said. "Coming off last season, we seniors just got together and said, 'This is our last year. Let's do something that everybody remembers.'"

They did that and more. The signs that this Madison team would be different than those of the past began on that first play. The Cubs were determined to get off to a strong start and Dyer provided the spark, ripping off that kickoff return for a touchdown to set the home fans into a frenzy.

"That first play this season, the kick-off return, that has to be my favorite one," Dyer said with a smile. "What a way to start the year, right?"

But it was in that same game that Dyer showed why he was more than just a big-play scorer.

His defensive interception at the end of the game sealed the win.

In the end, Dyer scored in every way imaginable. He caught touchdown passes, he threw touchdown passes. He returned kickoffs for scores and returned interceptions for touchdowns.

His final statistics are a take of effectiveness: 850 receiving yards, 1,425 total yards from scrimmage and 2,375 all-purpose yards. He scored 13 touchdowns and had six interceptions.

Benintende is not the type of coach who likes to play his players both ways but he realized early on that with a limited roster, he would be forced to do just that. Because of his return abilities, Dyer actually played three ways and rarely left the field of play.

Dyer never complained and whatever his coach asked him to do, he did it.

"I know he got tired from time-to-time, but he never showed it," Benintende said.

For Dyer, playing every snap was just the cost of helping his team win. And winning was by far the most important thing.

"I think when we got it in our heads that we could win, that we were a good team, and when we got that in our heads, it didn't take long after that for the rest of the team to believe," Dyer said. "And once we all believed, we thought we could do anything."

Madison's season ended on a heart-breaking 8-7 loss to North Harrison in the sectional championship game and with it, Dyer's high school career.

SEE MADISON/PAGE B8

## Ohio State offensive onslaught shocks Oregon

Unbeaten Ducks see title hopes dashed

BY JOE REEDY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA, Calif. — Oregon withstood many challenges en route to being the only unbeaten team and the top seed in the College Football Playoff.

However, Ohio State's opening flurry on offense and defense in the first half was too much to overcome as the Big Ten champions saw their hopes of a first national championship dashed with a 41-21 loss in the Rose Bowl on Wednesday night.

"It was definitely shocking. They came out and punched us in the mouth. We tried to make adjustments but it was definitely different," defensive back Kobe Savage said.

The Ducks (13-1) fell behind three plays into the game when Ohio State's Jeremiah Smith scored on a 45-yard pass from Will Howard and never recovered.

Oregon gave up scores on six of Ohio State's first seven drives. Offensively, the Ducks got into Buckeyes' territory only once on its first six drives and had four three-and-outs before reaching the end zone the seventh time they had the ball.

"We didn't adjust fast enough," coach Dan Lanning said.



Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press  
Ohio State quarterback Will Howard (18) holds a rose in his mouth as he poses with the trophy after the team won the quarterfinals of the Rose Bowl College Football Playoff against Oregon on Wednesday, in Pasadena, Calif.

Dillon Gabriel had four completions of at least 28 yards in the first half in Oregon's 32-31 victory on Oct. 12. That wasn't the case this time as his first long completion — a 44-yarder to Traeshon Holden — didn't come until there were 30 seconds remaining until halftime.

"They dropped eight. First game they played us man. That was their game plan to stop us and they did it to the best of their ability and they succeeded," said receiver Tez Johnson, who had five catches for 32 yards after having seven for 75 in the first game.

Ohio State had nine plays (seven passing, two rushing) of at least 15 yards in the first half as it took advantage of miscommunication in Oregon's secondary.

Ohio State had nine plays (seven passing, two rushing) of at least 15 yards in the first half as it took advantage of miscommunication in Oregon's secondary.

"Every time we had bad

eyes or miscommunication they capitalized on those moments," Savage said.

Oregon came into the game leading the Big Ten and ninth in the nation in third-down conversions, but converted only one of four in the first quarter and five of 12 in the first half.

Gabriel said the lack of big plays and not being able to stay on the field early ended up being costly.

"You plan to create explosives, be really good on situational football and move the chains that way. We just didn't do that on third down," said Gabriel, who completed 29 of 41 passes for 299 yards and two touchdowns. "They had a great plan, like coach said. But if you don't go get the third you can't move forward."

Gabriel was sacked eight

times after having a clean pocket in the first meeting. That was due to Oregon being forced to pass the entire second half and running back Jordan James being injured in the first half.

Evan Stewart, the Ducks' second-leading receiver during the season, did not play because of a back injury he suffered in the Big Ten Championship game against Penn State on Dec. 7. Stewart went through pregame warmups but wasn't cleared by trainers.

"It was very shocking because you got to think at Autzen, it was 7-7, 14-14, 21-21. It was pretty back and forth all game long, so to see 'em run up the score a little bit and us not have too much juice, it was a definitely a different ... It was a different atmosphere we hadn't been in this year, for sure," Stewart said.

The Ducks accomplished plenty in their first season in the Big Ten.

Oregon is losing plenty of starters on both sides of the ball, including Gabriel, who transferred from Oklahoma and was a Heisman Trophy finalist.

"I feel like the seniors set a great standard this season just to show how tough you can be and then it can be done. To go undefeated in your first time in a tough conference like the Big Ten," Savage said. "I feel like there's a lot of underclassmen and a lot of young guys that are going to come in and fill those roles and also maintain that standard."

## LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

## FRIDAY, JAN. 3

## BASKETBALL

Shawne girls, Edinburgh Tournament, TBA  
Trimble Co. girls host Valley, 6 p.m.  
Carroll Co. girls at Boone Co., 7:30 p.m.  
Madison girls host South Ripley, 7:30 p.m.  
Switzerland Co. girls at Batesville, 7:30 p.m.  
Trimble Co. boys host Valley, 7:30 p.m.

## WRESTLING

Madison, Switzerland Co. girls, IHSAA  
Sectionals at Floyd Central, 9 a.m.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 4

## BASKETBALL

Hanover men at Bluffton, 1 p.m.  
Hanover women at Bluffton, 3 p.m.  
Shawne boys at South Decatur, 7:30 p.m.  
Southwestern boys at Corydon, 7:30 p.m.  
Switzerland Co. boys host Providence, 7:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JAN. 5

No local events

## MONDAY, JAN. 6

## BASKETBALL

Trimble Co. boys vs. Walton-Verona, All "A" Classic 8th Region Tournament at Owen Co., 5:30 p.m.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 7

## BASKETBALL

Shawne girls at Eastern (Pekin), 6:30 p.m.  
Carroll Co. boys at Boone Co., 7:30 p.m.  
Carroll Co. girls host Woodford Co., 7:30 p.m.  
Madison girls host Brownstown, 7:30 p.m.  
Southwestern boys at Providence, 7:30 p.m.  
Trimble Co. girls vs. Owen Co., All "A"

Classic 8th Region Tournament at Owen Co., 7:30 p.m.

## SWIMMING

Madison hosts Salem, 6 p.m.  
Southwestern hosts Shawne, Switzerland Co., 6 p.m.

# Cards deny Washington 35-34 at Sun Bowl

Huskies fail on 2-point conversion

BY JOHN ERFORT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL PASO, Texas — Harrison Bailey threw for three touchdowns and Caullin Lacy scored twice as Louisville hung on to beat Washington in a 35-34 nail-biter in the Sun Bowl on Tuesday.

Lacy caught a 9-yard TD pass from Bailey, the game's MVP, in the first quarter and rushed for a score on an 8-yard end around in the fourth that gave Louisville a two-score lead that looked secure after three quarters.

But Washington rallied with scores on its final two possessions in the fourth, including a 1-yard fade from Demond Williams Jr. to Giles Jackson with nine seconds remaining.

Instead of kicking the extra point to tie it, the Huskies went for the win on a 2-point conversion try that failed when Williams' pass was knocked down in the end zone by linebacker Antonio Watts.

"We played to the very end," said Louisville head coach Jeff Brohm, whose team was without 22 players due to opt-outs and the transfer portal. "It was back and forth. At the end, we made one more play than they did."

"The game itself was a great battle," Washington coach Jedd Fisch said. "I thought there were so many good things in that game we should all be proud of as a football program."

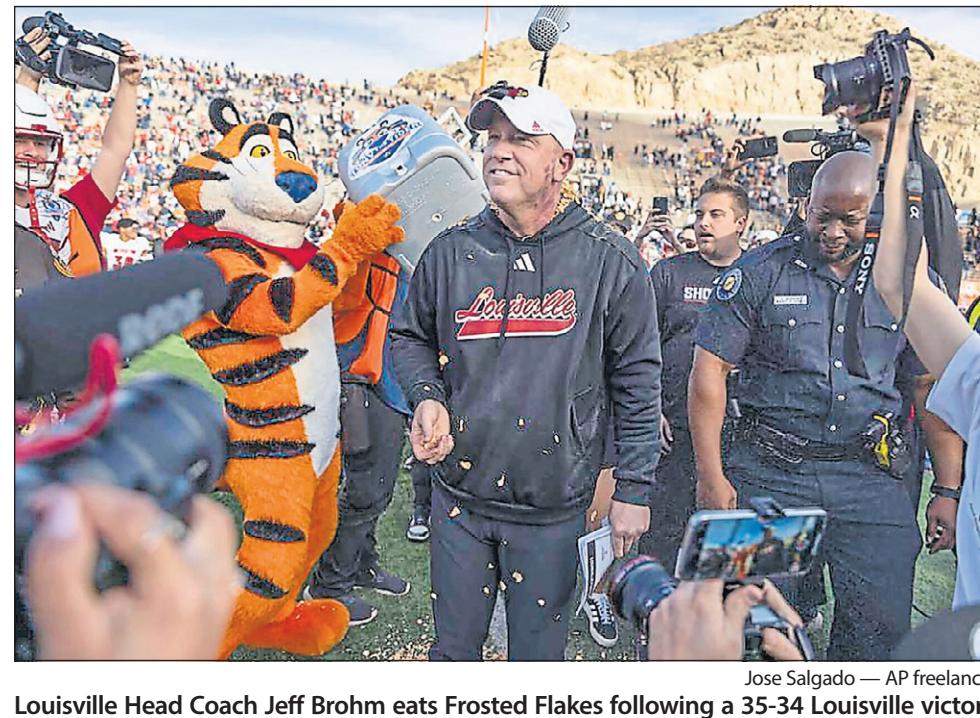
"This season is one we'll always remember. We're proud of our guys. It's unfortunate the way it went down at the end. But we were going in here for the win. We weren't going in here for the tie."

Bailey, who had only played in four games this year for the Cardinals and completed just eight passes for 63 yards, got his first start in place of senior standout Tyler Shough, who opted out of the game to prepare for the NFL Draft.

Bailey made the most of it, completing 16 of 25 passes for 164 yards for Louisville (9-4). He threw touchdown passes of 28, 21 and nine yards.

"I'm proud of Harrison," Brohm said. "He naturally has a lot of confidence, and that's a great trait for a quarterback. He wanted to play. He believes in himself, and the team rallied around him and played hard for him."

Bailey said the win is a big boost for the Cardinals.



Louisville Head Coach Jeff Brohm eats Frosted Flakes following a 35-34 Louisville victory over Washington at the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl on Dec. 31, in El Paso, Texas.

"It's huge for our football team," he said. "It propels us into next season. I'm super proud of the guys, especially the guys on defense coming through at the end."

Washington was led by Williams Jr., a freshman making only his second start, who accounted for five touchdowns. He was 26 of 32 passing for 374 yards and four TDs to go with one interception. He also rushed 20 times for 48 yards and a score.

His favorite target was Jackson, who set a Sun Bowl record with four receiving touchdowns on

11 catches for 161 yards.

"It's cool to score, but we still lost," Jackson said. "(Stats) doesn't mean anything to me. But it was cool."

The Cardinals, who never trailed and didn't commit a turnover, took a 7-0 lead on the game's second series when Tahveon Nicholson returned an interception 21 yards for a score.

## TAKEAWAYS

Louisville: The Cardinals were without 22 players, 18 of whom entered the transfer portal along with four opt outs. Start-

ers who went to the portal were defensive linemen Jared Dawson, tight end Jamari Johnson and safety Devin Neal. They joined opt outs Shough, leading receiver Ja'Corey Brooks, defensive end Ashton Gillotte and quarterback Brady Allen. Shough threw for 3,195 yards and 23 TDs this year, while Brooks had 61 catches for 1,013 yards and 9 TDs.

Washington: Unlike Louisville, Washington didn't have any players opt out of the game. However, the Huskies, who lost 41 letterwinners from last

year's playoff team, only returned two starters this year in coach Fisch's first season.

## FACTS & FIGURES

Louisville's punter Carter Schwartz won Special Teams MVP and Jordan Guerad, who had six tackles, two tackles for loss and a sack, was the Most Valuable Lineman.

"We bowed up as a defense," Guerad said.

Defensively, Washington linebacker Carson Bruener led all defenders with 11 tackles, while Louisville finished with five sacks to Washington's zero.

Louisville finished the season on a three-game win streak and improved to 2-0 all-time at the Sun Bowl. Washington lost its final two games and is 1-4 at the Sun Bowl. Both teams are even all-time in bowl games — Washington is 21-21-1, Louisville is 13-13-1.

Tuesday's game was the first-ever meeting between the teams.

## UP NEXT

Louisville will open Brohm's third season on Aug. 30 at home against Eastern Kentucky as the Cardinals aim for a fifth consecutive bowl appearance.

Washington will kick off Fisch's second season on Aug. 30 at home against Colorado State.

# Texas dodges bullet in 2OT win over Arizona State

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

ATLANTA — With Arizona State one play away from pulling off a comeback for the ages in the College Football Playoff, Quinn Ewers delivered a throw to Matthew Golden that saved the season for Texas.

Then it was left to Andrew Mukuba to finish off Cam Skattebo and the gritty Sun Devils.

If the Longhorns go on to win the national championship, they'll long remember how they kept their hopes alive in this Peach Bowl quarterfinal classic.

Ewers passed 28 yards to Golden for a touchdown on fourth-and-13 to force a second overtime, and Mukuba's interception clinched a 39-31 victory after Texas squandered a 16-point lead in the fourth quarter and missed two field goal attempts that could've won it in regulation.

"The one thing that I know about our group is when our backs are against the wall and when our best is needed, our best shows up time and time again," coach Steve Sarkisian said. "The resiliency that these guys showed today was something that as a coach makes you really proud."

Skattebo put No. 10 Arizona State ahead for the first time all day with a 3-yard touchdown run to start overtime against No. 4 Texas, the capper on a brilliant performance that wasn't quite enough to knock off the Longhorns.

Everywhere that Ashton Jeanty turned, he ran into Nittany Lions. The Heisman Trophy runner-up still went over 100 yards, but he sure had to work for it.

Drew Allar threw three touchdown passes and No. 5 Penn State bottled up Jeanty for a 31-14 win over No. 8 Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl on Tuesday night, earning a spot in the College Football Playoff semifinals.

"We knew who we were going against. We knew we had to have hats to the ball every single play because every play

The Sun Devils — a two-touchdown underdog, according to BetMGM Sportsbook — had the game in their grasp before Ewers spotted Golden breaking free behind two defenders to haul in the tying score.

"That's just a testament to how mature this team is and just taking advantage of every single opportunity that we have," Ewers said.

After moving to the opposite end of Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Ewers threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Gunnar Helm on the very next play, followed by a 2-point conversion pass to Golden.

The Longhorns (13-2) finally put Arizona State (11-3) away when Mukuba picked off Sam Leavitt's pass at the 3 to end the game.

"We gave everything we had," Skattebo said. "We never stopped."

After a bunch of lopsided results through the first five games of the expanded 12-team playoff, the format finally produced the sort of thrilling game that supporters envisioned.

It sends Texas back to its home state for a Cotton Bowl semifinal against No. 6 Ohio State, which routed No. 1 Oregon 41-21 in the Rose Bowl.

Despite being dominated on the stat sheet most of the game, the Longhorns had a seemingly comfortable 24-8 lead after scoring two early touchdowns and getting a

5-yard scoring run from Ewers with just over 10 minutes remaining.

But Skattebo and the Sun Devils were just getting warmed up.

The running back who calls himself the best in the nation, Skattebo backed up his bravado by displaying every facet of his all-around game.

First, he took a pitch on fourth-and-2 and heaved a 42-yard touchdown pass to Malik McClain that gave the Sun Devils a chance when they made the 2-point conversion.

Then, Skattebo broke loose down the sideline and hauled in a 62-yard throw from Leavitt — getting his helmet ripped off at the end of the play, which seemed like the only way to bring him down.

That set up a 2-yard touchdown run by the bowling ball of a back, and it was only appropriate that Skattebo also powered in for the 2-point conversion that tied the game at 24 with 5 minutes remaining.

Texas had a pair of chances to win in regulation, but Bert Auburn was wide right on a 48-yard field goal attempt and clanked one off the left upright from 38 yards away as time expired.

"We weren't at our best and it felt like an NCAA March Madness basketball game with the swings of emotions and things," Sarkisian said. "I'm just proud of these guys because not every game is going to be pretty and not

every game is just going to go exactly how you want it to go."

In the final minute of the third quarter, Texas led 17-8 even though Arizona State had a commanding 303-128 lead in total yards and had held the ball nearly three times longer than the Longhorns, 32:49 to 11:30.

Arizona State finished with 510 yards to 375 for the Longhorns.

Despite vomiting on the sideline before the start of the fourth quarter, Skattebo rushed for 143 yards, made eight catches for another 99 yards and, of course, had that one big completion.

It wasn't quite enough.

Ewers threw for 322 yards, with Golden making seven receptions for 149 yards.

Early fireworks

After Arizona State drove for a field goal on the opening possession, Texas needed only two plays to claim the lead.

Ewers hooked up with Golden on a 54-yard play, then went to DeAndre Moore Jr. for a 23-yard scoring pass.

Both times, the Longhorns went after Montana Warren, starting in place of Shamari Simmons with the Sun Devils star forced to sit out the first half after being penalized for targeting in the Big 12 championship game.

Arizona State then went three-and-out and Silas Bolden returned the punt 75 yards for another Texas touchdown. Having taken just two snaps, the

Longhorns had a 14-3 lead.

But any thoughts of another CFP blowout faded as Texas struggled to finish off the Sun Devils, one of the nation's most surprising teams after going 3-9 a year ago and remaining largely unnoticed until late this season.

## THE TAKEAWAY

Texas: It wasn't pretty, but Sarkisian was correct to give the Longhorns points for resiliency. This also provides the coaching staff with plenty of teaching tools, because it's hard to see Texas winning two more games — and a national championship — without significant improvement.

Arizona State: The Sun Devils will regret all the chances they squandered before the fourth quarter. Three times, they were stopped on fourth down in Texas territory. The Longhorns also blocked a 36-yard field goal attempt just before the end of the first half. But this was a performance that is sure to boost ASU's profile nationwide and give coach Kenny Dillingham's program a sense that it does belong among the nation's elite.

## UP NEXT

Texas: The Longhorns will face Ohio State for the first time since the 2009 Fiesta Bowl, when Texas prevailed 24-21. The Cotton Bowl on Jan. 10 will make the fourth meeting overall between the powerhouse programs, with Texas holding a 2-1 lead in the series.

# No. 5 Penn State bottles up Jeanty, Boise State 31-14

BY JOHN MARSHALL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Penn State defenders clogged every hole, stretched out every outside run, closed with ferocity.

Everywhere that Ashton Jeanty turned, he ran into Nittany Lions. The Heisman Trophy runner-up still went over 100 yards, but he sure had to work for it.

Drew Allar threw three touchdown passes and No. 5 Penn State bottled up Jeanty for a 31-14 win over No. 8 Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl on Tuesday night, earning a spot in the College Football Playoff semifinals.

"We knew who we were going against. We knew we had to have hats to the ball every single play because every play

he could break one," said Penn State safety Zakee Wheatley, who had an interception and recovered a fumble. "We did that the whole game."

The Nittany Lions (13-2, CFP No. 6 seed) opened their first CFP berth with a blowout win over SMU and appeared headed toward the latest lopsided victory in the new 12-team format by jumping out to a 14-0 lead against Boise State.

But the Broncos (12-2, CFP No. 3 seed) have relished the role of underdog, going back to when their brand went national in the electrifying 2007 Fiesta Bowl, and they had an answer.

Boise State galloped back from the early deficit, trimming the margin to 17-14 early in the third quarter, momentum

seemingly on its side.

And then Penn State turned the tide for good.

Allar threw his second touchdown pass of the night to John Mackey Award winner Tyler Warren, and Nick Singleton burst up the middle for a 58-yard TD run, sending the Nittany Lions to the Jan. 9 Orange Bowl against No. 2 Georgia or No. 3 Notre Dame.

"We played a complete game," Penn State coach James Franklin said. "Our offense, defense and special teams, we played complementary football, did some special things."

Penn State did it by controlling the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball most of the night and hounding Jeanty at every turn.

The AP first-team All-America selection finished with a season-low 104 yards on 30 carries, just 3.5 yards per carry — half his season averaged. Jeanty finished 27 yards short of Barry Sanders' single-season NCAA record set in 1988 at Oklahoma State.

"They have a great D-line, front seven," Jeanty said. "It wasn't really extraordinary. They executed, they tackled and we didn't play our best."

Penn State's defense was dominant most of the night, but its offense was just as good, particularly on the ground.

The Nittany Lions ran

for 216 yards, including 134 by Kaytron Allen and 87 by Singleton. Allar was steady after facing criticism most of the season, throwing for 171 yards on 13-of-25 passing.

With Jeanty surrounded on nearly every play,

Boise State turned to Tyler Crowe and the fullback took several Nittany Lions with him for an 8-yard touchdown run that cut Penn State's lead in half. The comeback seemed to still be in reach with Matt Lauer's 53-yard TD catch in the third quarter, but the Broncos ran out of answers after that.

Maddux Madsen threw three interceptions and Jonah Dalmas missed his second field goal attempt, leaving the Broncos short of the CFP semifinals.

"A lot of people counted us out and we came up a couple plays short," Danielson said.

## UP NEXT

Penn State will play No. 2 Georgia or No. 3 Notre Dame in the Jan. 9 Orange Bowl.

# Colts face offseason questions after setback

BY MICHAEL MAROT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indianapolis Colts coach Shane Steichen tried to provide answers after Sunday's embarrassing playoff-eliminating loss to the New York Giants.

His responses only created more questions.

After seeing his injured starting quarterback sit out again and the defense turn in yet another baffling performance, Indy's second-year coach struggled to explain what went wrong in the 45-33 loss — and what solutions exist.

"It's hard to explain," he said. "Obviously, we've got to play a complete game, we haven't done it all year. We've all got to be on the same page. That (performance) is not good enough."

Changes almost certainly will be part of the long-term solution now that the franchise playoff drought has reached four years.

Steichen didn't discuss Anthony Richardson's back injury until after Richardson appeared on Wednesday's injury report.

At that point, Steichen called it back soreness. So when Richardson was ruled out Saturday, fans naturally started wondering whether this was similar to the game in which Richardson took himself out because he was tired.

Steichen clarified what happened Sunday, saying he should have been clearer about the spasms that were so severe, Indy needed to protect the 22-year-old quarterback. So the 39-year-old Joe Flacco started the must-win game.

Sunday's game again exposed plenty of problems for the Colts

(7-9).

They started slowly, couldn't get off the field against the league's lowest-scoring offense and allowed a 100-yard kickoff return to start the second half that left Indy in a 28-13 hole, sapping any momentum for a potential second-half rally.

And for the second time in three weeks, Steichen's play-calling drew questions, too.

Indy ran the ball on third-and-long before sending kicker Matt Gay onto the field for a 54-yard field goal that drifted wide right. Jonathan Taylor came up short on a fourth-and-1 play, dropped the ball on a trick play 2-point conversion try that would have tied the score and had a potential TD pass bounce off his helmet when he didn't turn in time.

But for a defense that allowed

45 points in a crucial game, one thing is obvious — changes are coming.

45 points in a crucial game, one thing is obvious — changes are coming.

"The offense scored 33 points, and we couldn't stop a nosebleed on defense. That's very frustrating," Pro Bowl defensive tackle DeForest Buckner said Monday. "Like I said, this offseason, there's going to be some changes and some of those changes are going to be uncomfortable for people. There are going to be some uncomfortable conversations, and we're going to make those changes for the better."

## WHAT'S WORKING

The playmakers. Despite Taylor's continuing miscues, he and Michael Pittman Jr. kept the Colts in this game. Taylor finished with 125 yards rushing and two more TDs, giving him 443 yards and five TDs over the past two weeks. Pittman had his best game of the season with nine catches for 109 yards and one TD.

## WHAT NEEDS HELP

Everything else. Flacco threw two interceptions, the defense allowed 389 yards, missed a plethora of tackles and couldn't get stops. Gay missed the long field-goal attempt, and the Giants had their first kickoff return for a TD to start the second half since 1949.

## STOCK UP

Kylen Granson. It's been a tough season for Colts tight ends, but Granson, finally, provided a bright spot Sunday when he caught a season high-tying three passes for 34 yards. It was

his third-best yardage total of the season.

## STOCK DOWN

Gus Bradley. The Colts defensive coordinator has been criticized most of this season and the cries are only going to grow louder now. After building a seemingly safe 38-7 lead midway through the third quarter against Tennessee last week, Indy gave up 23 points and had to reinsert its starters. Then came Sunday's debacle. A decision on Bradley's job status should come soon shortly after next week's season finale.

## INJURIES

The Colts reported no new injuries following the game. It's still unclear whether Richardson can return for what is now a meaningless season finale against Jacksonville — or whether Flacco likely closes out his career in Indy with one more start.

## KEY NUMBER

Minus-3 — Indy lost one fumble in addition to Flacco's two interceptions, leaving the Colts at minus-3 in Sunday's turnover battle.

## NEXT STEPS

With this season's fate already sealed, preparations for next season can begin in earnest. Yes, the Colts still face the Jacksonville Jaguars (4-12) on Sunday (TV: Live on FOX at 1 p.m.). But the debate over who returns and who does not among other changes for 2025 will dominate the discussion this week.

## Colts QB Richardson hopeful of returning in season finale

BY MICHAEL MAROT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts quarterback Anthony Richardson said he was in such severe pain last week he struggled to walk.

The 22-year-old appears to be feeling much better this week — possibly even well enough to start Sunday's season finale against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

After missing last weekend's playoff-eliminating loss to the New York Giants, Richardson stood tall Wednesday, fielding questions for about six minutes while explaining he hopes to return this week.

"Definitely feeling a lot better," Richardson said. "Just lower back stuff. Last week was tough. I couldn't even stand up on Tuesday, was kind of crawling around the house. But you know I'm standing up."

And yet coach Shane Steichen was still saying late last week that Richardson had been dealing with

back soreness and still might play.

Richardson explained he's been dealing with back spasms since eighth grade and MRIs have shown he has disk issues, causing the pain intermittently.

The former Florida star also has struggled with injuries through his first two NFL seasons. A concussion and season-ending injury to his throwing shoulder limited him to just four starts as a rookie. He missed two games in October with an injured hip, was benched for two games in November after taking himself out of a game for one play because he was tired and then sat out last weekend, leaving him 8-7 as the starter.

The Colts opted to hold a walkthrough Wednesday and Steichen would not project whether Richardson would have participated in a full workout — had the Colts (7-9) held a regular practice.

Still, Colts players and

Steichen remain hopeful Richardson will play this week even though their postseason fate has been sealed.

"We're hopeful," Steichen said. "He's working through his rehab and his treatment right now. So we'll see how this week progresses."

Richardson also wants to play and not just to prove those who have questioned both his consistency — he has a league-low completion rate of 47.7% with 12 interceptions and eight touchdowns — or his ability to stay healthy.

Instead, Richardson wants to show he can beat the Jags (4-12) and close the season with another victory.

"It's tough you know, especially watching us lose the way we did with everything that was on the line, on the table for us," Richardson said. "It just matters how you fight back and how you respond to certain things."

in the playoff bracket are secure, though the seeding is still up for grabs in some situations. The Chiefs are the top seed while the Buffalo Bills (13-3) own the No. 2 spot.

The Baltimore Ravens (11-5), Pittsburgh Steelers (10-6), Los Angeles Chargers (10-6) and Houston Texans (9-7) also know they have more football to play. The Ravens can clinch the No. 3 spot in the bracket with a win over the Browns. The Texans are locked into the No. 4 spot despite a worse record than some teams because they've clinched their division.

As for the seventh team, the Denver Broncos (9-7) are in good position though the Miami Dolphins (8-8) and Cincinnati Bengals (8-8) still have hope. The problem for the Dolphins and Bengals is the Broncos can earn the final spot with a win against Kansas City this weekend, and there's not much incentive for the Chiefs to play

their starters considering they've already got the No. 1 seed wrapped up.

### NFC

Much like the AFC, six of the seven spots are taken. The Vikings, Lions, Philadelphia Eagles (13-3), Green Bay Packers (11-5), Los Angeles Rams (10-6) and Washington Commanders (11-5) will be in the bracket. Minnesota and Detroit will duke it out for the No. 1 seed next Sunday while the loser falls all the way to No. 5. The Eagles have secured the No. 2 spot.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers (9-7) have the

inside track for the final

spot, needing a win over the New Orleans Saints this weekend to secure their place. If they lose, the Atlanta Falcons (8-8)

could still sneak into the

bracket if they beat the

Carolina Panthers.

### NFL PLAYOFF FORMAT

The 14-team bracket

SEE NFL/PAGE B4

## NFL Playoff Guide

Postseason bracket much clearer with one weekend left

BY DAVID BRANDT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's Week 18 of the NFL season, which means just one more weekend remains before postseason action begins.

The two-time defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs and star quarterback Patrick Mahomes look like a formidable opponent once again and have already clinched the No. 1 seed in the AFC bracket with a 15-1 record.

Over in the NFC, a crucial game awaits when the Minnesota Vikings (14-2) travel to face the Detroit Lions (14-2) on Sunday in a game that will decide the division winner, the No. 1 seed in the conference and home-field advantage until the Super Bowl.

Here are some more things to watch as the regular season winds down:

### NFL PLAYOFF PICTURE

AFC

Six of the seven spots



Seth Wenig/Associated Press

New York Giants defenders sack Indianapolis Colts quarterback Joe Flacco (15) and cause a fumble to end the Colts' final drive in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Richardson's absence might have been the least of Indy's problems. The way it played out, though, prompted fans and former players such as Pat McAfee to question whether Indy's locker room needs a culture change and whether players arrived late to meetings and injury treatments.

"I think with any team not

every time, but there is accountability and guys are held to a standard," Steichen said Monday. "When the standard is getting in the playoffs, it's frustrating. It's frustrating to a lot of people, myself included, and that's why we talk about the standard being raised so we're not in these situations."

Sunday's game again exposed

plenty of problems for the Colts

(7-9).

They started slowly, couldn't get off the field against the league's lowest-scoring offense and allowed a 100-yard kickoff return to start the second half that left Indy in a 28-13 hole, sapping any momentum for a potential second-half rally.

And for the second time in three weeks, Steichen's play-calling drew questions, too.

Indy ran the ball on third-and-long before sending kicker Matt Gay onto the field for a 54-yard field goal that drifted wide right. Jonathan Taylor came up short on a fourth-and-1 play, dropped the ball on a trick play 2-point conversion try that would have tied the score and had a potential TD pass bounce off his helmet when he didn't turn in time.

But for a defense that allowed

45 points in a crucial game, one thing is obvious — changes are coming.

## Steelers defense scrambling heading into Bengals, playoffs

BY WILL GRAVES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — Looking back, DeShon Elliott thinks he maybe shouldn't have made his frustrations about the direction the Pittsburgh Steelers defense is heading so public.

Then again, the veteran safety knows the candor he showed in the aftermath of a 29-10 loss to Kansas City on Christmas Day — when he vented about communication issues in the secondary that shouldn't be popping up in late December for a unit that considers itself among the best in the league — also makes him who he is.

"It was out of emotion," Elliott said Wednesday. "I love ball. Everyone knows that I love these guys. But we just have to get back to the drawing board."

And do it quickly.

The swagger the Steelers (10-6) and the NFL's highest-paid defense exuded for the first three-plus months of the season has vanished during the three-game losing streak they take into the regular-season finale against Cincinnati (8-8) at Pittsburgh (TV: Live on ABC/ESPN at 8 p.m. Saturday), replaced by the kinds of mistakes that have cost them the inside track to the AFC North title.

Shortly after Patrick Mahomes picked them apart while throwing for 320 yards and three scores, several players — including Elliott and outside linebacker Alex Highsmith — groused about a variety of issues.

While Elliott wondered aloud why the secondary was missing so many assignments, Highsmith was questioning the "want-to" of unnamed teammates.

Coach Mike Tomlin downplayed the unusual, openly nature of his players' discontent, calling it a byproduct of their passion.

Maybe, but it was also symbolic of a group desperately trying to find something — anything — to build on ahead of the playoffs.

It's telling of the current mood in the locker room that after star outside linebacker T.J. Watt was selected as the team's Most Valuable Player for a record fifth time on Wednesday after

noon, he spent most of his brief session with reporters fielding questions about how things have gotten so sideways so quickly.

Asked about the defense's level of angst, Watt shrugged.

"I think we're all professionals, we're all grown adults here," he said. "We know that it's all about channeling energy in the right way."

If Pittsburgh wants to avoid another quick playoff exit, it doesn't really have a choice. The Steelers are giving up more than 400 yards per game during their current skid against the kinds of teams — Philadelphia, Baltimore and Kansas City — that similar to Pittsburgh, carry the desire to play deep into January and beyond.

The Eagles, Ravens and Chiefs are surging to the finish. The Steelers are not.

And while the offense has hit a rough patch — it hasn't helped that wide receiver George Pickens missed three weeks with a hamstring injury and was kept relatively under wraps by Kansas City in his return.

Pittsburgh's best chance at being a legitimate threat when the playoffs begin relies heavily on a star-studded unit that creates turnovers and chaos.

At the moment there's little of either to go around.

While the Steelers are tied with Minnesota and Buffalo for the most takeaways in the league (31), they're also minus-2 in turnover ratio during a December swoon that has done little to offer proof they're ready to compete with the league's elite.

And while Watt remains one of the best in coming off the edge, his 11 1/2 sacks are also on pace for the fewest in a non-injury-abbreviated season since his rookie year in 2017, endemic of a unit that's going to finish with its fewest sacks in a decade.

There are a myriad of factors at play, from the outsized attention Watt receives to Highsmith missing six games with groin and ankle problems to opposing offenses emphasizing quick passes designed to negate Pittsburgh's pass rush.

Yet the Steelers were get-

ting by just fine until one of the most daunting stretches any team in the league faced this season, 11 days against three division champions that exposed Pittsburgh's weaknesses for the whole league — and anyone they might face in the playoffs — to see.

The nature of the losses — each by two touchdowns or more, the worst such stretch by the Steelers since the 1980s — created the ingredients of an imperfect storm that happened to blow in with cameras and tape recorders rolling.

"You prepare to win, and when you don't win, things can get frustrat(ing), but we'll be all right," Elliott said. "We all love each other. It's like when you argue with your brother. Eventually, you'll hash it out and get on the same page."

The sooner "eventually" gets here for Pittsburgh, the better. If it doesn't come by the second weekend of January, another season with three potential Hall of Famers at each level of the defense — from Watt to longtime captain Cam Heyward to safety Minkah Fitzpatrick — will have come and gone without a playoff victory to show for it.

Trying to regain its confidence against the Bengals — winners of four straight

— behind quarterback Joe Burrow — is a tough ask. The Steelers have put themselves in a position where they desperately need to come up with an answer.

To that end, the players requested an additional walkthrough on Wednesday, unusual for this time of the season.

Then again, they're in an

# Antetokounmpo, Bucks rally to beat Pacers 120-112

BY PHILLIP B. WILSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Giannis Antetokounmpo shook off a four-point first half and finished with 30 points and 12 rebounds as the Milwaukee Bucks rallied from a 19-point deficit and beat the Indiana Pacers 120-112 on Tuesday.

Antetokounmpo, a two-time MVP who missed the previous three games with a non-COVID illness, stepped up in the second half after the Bucks fell behind 83-64 in the third quarter. The NBA scoring leader made 11 of 20 shots from the field and 8 of 13 from the line while adding five assists.

Brook Lopez scored 16 points and Bobby Portis Jr. had 14 points and 15 rebounds for the Bucks, who outscored the Pacers 67-48 after halftime.

Benedict Mathurin led the Pacers with 25 points. Pascal Siakam had 20.

## TAKEAWAYS

Bucks: Just when it seemed as if the Bucks

were headed to a third consecutive loss, they went on a 12-0 run and trimmed a huge deficit to three points entering the final quarter. The strong second half made up for a sluggish first half.

Pacers: Each time Indiana nears .500, there's a setback with another disappointing loss. Blowing such a big lead at home could sting for a while.

## KEY MOMENT

Gary Trent Jr. hit two clutch 3-pointers late, the first with the Bucks leading by one and the second with a two-point lead just as the shot clock expired to make it 115-110 with 1:39 remaining.

## KEY STAT

Damian Lillard missed all seven shots, including three 3s, and committed two turnovers in a forgettable first half while being hounded by top Pacers defender Andrew Nembhard. Lillard finished with 3-for-14 shooting for nine points.

## Peach Bowl targeting no-call sparks debate

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

ATLANTA — The Peach Bowl referee declined to call a targeting penalty late in the fourth quarter for a helmet-to-helmet hit by Texas safety Michael Taaffe that could've given Arizona State a chance to kick a winning field goal in the College Football Playoff quarterfinals Wednesday.

The fourth-ranked Longhorns went on to beat the No. 10 Sun Devils 39-31 in double overtime after Texas squandered a 16-point lead in the final period of regulation.

Arizona State coach Kenny Dillingham argued with the officials on the sideline. It was clear he didn't agree with the call after one of his own players, star defensive back Shamari Simmons, had to sit out the first half after being ejected from the Big 12 championship game for a targeting penalty.

Texas took advantage of Simmons' replacement, Montana Warren, to hit two long passes for a touchdown on its opening possession.

"I'm going to be honest, I don't know what targeting is," Dillingham said. "We lost one of our best players in the first half for targeting, and I just don't know what it is."

Targeting generally refers to a player delivering a hit while leading with the crown of his helmet. While Taaffe's helmet undoubtedly hit Stovall's, it didn't appear the Texas player lowered his head.

Dillingham said he's baffled by the targeting rule.

"I don't want to comment on something that I have to get a better grasp on what it is," the coach said. "I just don't quite understand it. I do want to protect the players, though. So whatever rules are put in place to protect the players, I'm all about it."

Round. Two games on Saturday, two on Sunday.

Jan. 26: AFC and NFC Conference Championships.

Feb. 9: Super Bowl LIX at the Superdome in New Orleans.

## NFL PLAYOFF BETTING ODDS

According to BetMGM Sportsbook, the Chiefs are the favorites to win the Super Bowl at +375. The Lions are right behind them at +400 while the Bills are third at +550.

**RECENT NFL NEWS**

Pacheco to rest sore ribs, Kansas City likely to sit others in Week 18

Jayden Daniels carries Commanders to the playoffs by running as much as throwing

Falcons lose right to control own playoff destiny after clock mismanagement vs. Commanders

Success of Mayfield, Darnold with other teams highlights Panthers' lack of QB development

Steelers CB Joey Porter trending toward playing in finals vs. Bengals

## NFL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Jan. 11-13: Wild Card Round. Two games on Saturday, three on Sunday, one on Monday.

Jan. 18-19: Divisional

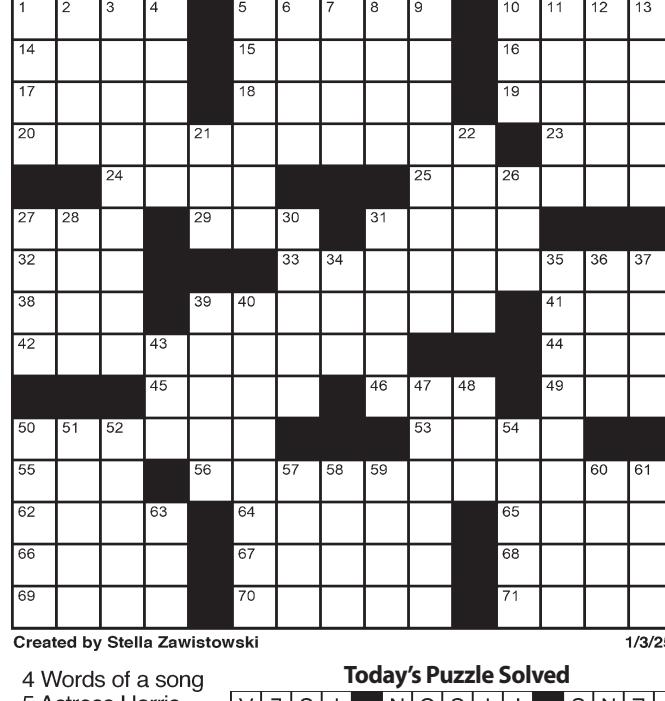
FRIDAY EVENING												
Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
③ WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Happy's Lopez.	Dateline NBC (N)				WAV..
④ WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Cedy (N)	Fire Country	S.W.A.T.	CBS4..		
⑤ WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Happy's Lopez.	Dateline NBC (N)				News
⑧ WISH	12		News (N)	Inside..	ET (N)	Inside the NFL	Whose	Whose	News (N)			News
⑨ WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	High Potential	20/20				News
⑪ WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	High Potential	20/20				News
⑯ WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	PBS News (N)	Comm..	Week	Great Performances (N)	OneVo..	BBCN..		
⑯ WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	College Basketball		FOX19 NOW at 10			
⑯ WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Cedy (N)	Fire Country	S.W.A.T.			News
⑯ WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	Conners	Sheldon	BigBa..	Inside the NFL	Whose	Whose	BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
⑯ WDRB	8	9	News	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	College Basketball			News (N) (Live)		News
A&E	28	36	The First 48	The First 48		The First 48 (N)	(:05) Cold Case	Cold Case Files				First48
AMC	29	26	(5:30) ★★★ Sleepy Hollow ('99)				★★★ The Lost Boys ('87)					★★★★ Ghostbusters ('84)
COM	45	59	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Family..
DISC	31	38	Gold Rush	Gold Rush		Gold Rush (N)						(:10) Last W. (N)
DISN	25	29	Bluey	Bluey	Big City	Big City	★★★★ Incredibles 2 ('18)			StuGo	(:45) Kiff	(:10) Kiff
ESPN	32	44	(4:00) College Football	Football		Duke's Mayo Bowl: Minnesota vs. Virginia Tech (N)						SportC..
FREE	18	40	(5:05) ★★★ Spider-Man: No Way Home				★★★★ Charlie and the Chocolate Factory ('05)					700Club
FX	40	28	(4:00) ★★★ Black W...	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War ('16)	Chris Evans.		★★★★ Captain Ame...					
HBO	201	17										
MAX	270	73	★★★★ Sisters ('15)	Amy Poehler.			★★★★ Everything Everywhere All at Once ('23)					The Revenant
NEWSNTN	20	20	The Hill (N)	On Balance (N)			Cuomo (N)	Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	TwoM..	★★★★ Django Unchained ('12)	Christoph Waltz, Jamie Foxx.				
PARSHO	221	16	(5:00) ★★★★ Braveheart ('95)				Dexter: Sin	The Agency				The Big Short
TMC	233	74	(:05) ★★★ Organ Trail ('23)				★★★★ Premonition ('07)					
TNT	27	43	(5:30) ★★★ Kong: Skull Island				★★★★ Godzilla vs. Kong ('21)					
USA	26	33	Chicago Fire	Chi. Fire "Viral"			WWE Friday Night SmackDown					Movie

SATURDAY EVENING												
Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
③ WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	Chefs	Song	Dateline "Righteous Obsession"			SNL		WAV..
④ WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBS-N..	Sheldon	Sheldon	Elsbeth	48 Hours		48 Hours (N)	CBS4..	
⑤ WLWT	2		News (N)	NBCN..	Let'sT..		Dateline "Righteous Obsession"			SNL		News
⑧ WISH	12		News	FamFe..	Hollywood		I Am Sam Kinison			News (N)		News
⑨ WCPO	23		(4:30) NFL Football		Count..		Football Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers					News
⑪ WHAS	11	4	(4:30) NFL Football		Count..		Football Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers					News
⑯ WKPC	13		Antiques	TimFa..	RedGr..	Kentuc..	Ky.Afi..	Brady Bunch Movie	Variety	Austin		
⑯ WXIX	10		Game..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Tip-Off	Basketball Michigan at USC (N)			FOX19 (N)		Kitchen
⑯ WLKY	5	5	WLK..	CBS-N..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Elsbeth	48 Hours		48 Hours (N)		News
⑯ WBKI	7	7	(4:30) To Be Announced				I Am Sam Kinison					House..
⑯ WDRB	8	9	The Equalizer	Preview	Tip-Off		Basketball Michigan at USC (N)			News (N)		News
A&E	28	36	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	29	26	(4:00) ★★★ The Green Mile ('99)				★★★★ Gladiator Joaquin Phoenix, Russell Crowe.					
COM	45	59	★★★ Grown Ups 2 ('13)				★★★★ 50 First Dates ('04)					★★★★ Happy Gilmore
DISC	31	38	Expedition	Expedition			Expedition	Expedition				Expedi..
DISN	25	29	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	★★★★ Coco ('17)					Hamst..
ESPN	32	44	(4:30) NFL Football		NFL		Football Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers					Postga..
FREE	18	40	(5:40) ★★★ Hotel Transylvania	(45) ★★★ Hotel Transylvania 2			★★★★ Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer ...					
FX	40	28	(4:30) ★★★★ Furious 7 ('15)	Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.			★★★★ Fast & Furious Presen...					
HBO	201	17	(15) ★★★ House at the End of the Street				★★★★ The Front Room (P)	(40) ★★★★ It Follows (P)			</td	

## THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

## ACROSS

1 Transport by truck  
5 1993 commerce treaty: Abbr.  
10 Timeline sections  
14 Sports award  
15 Sports starters  
16 Tedious person  
17 Untruthful person  
18 Toothbrush brand  
19 Incinerate  
20 Felt-tip pen brand: 2 wds.  
23 Car fuel  
24 Brazilian berry  
25 High-fat steak  
27 Enjoy the slopes  
29 Chest muscle  
31 Acid neutralizer  
32 Scam  
33 Egg entrees  
38 Stomach muscles  
39 Vast kingdoms  
41 Prefix with "skeleton"  
42 Get revenge  
44 Prefix with "Atlantic"  
45 Big Apple school: Abbr.  
46 Get older  
49 School support group: Abbr.  
50 Capital of Texas  
53 Egglke shape  
55 "Mr. Robot" network  
56 Low neckline  
62 Artist Salvador  
64 Ran easily  
65 Chemistry particle  
66 Stravinsky or Sikorsky  
67 Milky coffee drink  
68 Unit of paper  
69 Hamilton bills  
70 "Let's go!" 2 wds.  
71 Actress Fisher



Created by Stella Zawistowski

1/3/25

## DOWN

1 Ship's command post  
2 China's continent  
3 Confronting: 2 wds.  
37 Bubbly drink

4 Words of a song

5 Actress Harris  
6 Razor brand  
7 Dread  
8 Conversation  
9 Brown beer: 2 wds.  
10 Flow back  
11 Cheek cosmetic  
12 Impressive display  
13 Feel  
21 Toothpaste tube top  
22 Goes up  
26 Wager  
27 "The Lion King" villain  
28 NBA legend Bryant  
30 Health insurance fee  
31 Kentucky college  
34 School near Harvard: Abbr.  
35 Stencils, e.g.  
36 Leave a room  
37 Bubbly drink

Today's Puzzle Solved



Created by Stella Zawistowski

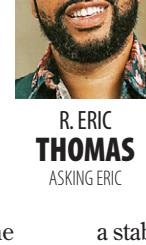
1/3/25

## Husband dependent on spouse to handle problems

Dear Eric: I am a gay man and have been with my husband for many years now, married six of them. Every time an issue comes up, whether it's the landlord knocking on the door or someone else, he comes running to me to deal with it, and I am fed up with it. I deal with paying all the bills each month. I work full-time just like my husband, and I have told him numerous times to be a man and start dealing with it, as I want a husband, not a wife. But he doesn't listen. It's exhausting. What can I do?

## — Tired Husband

Dear Husband: Let's first unpack the phrase "I want a husband, not a wife." I'm not trying to attack you; I just want to point something out that will, hopefully, help you. In the way that you used it, the phrase has sexist connotations because it strongly suggests that a woman in a marriage is helpless or needy or any of the negative traits you're seeing in your husband. That's not true. Anybody can be overly dependent on a partner, and anybody can step up. This is a great example of how sexism

R. ERIC THOMAS  
ASKING ERIC

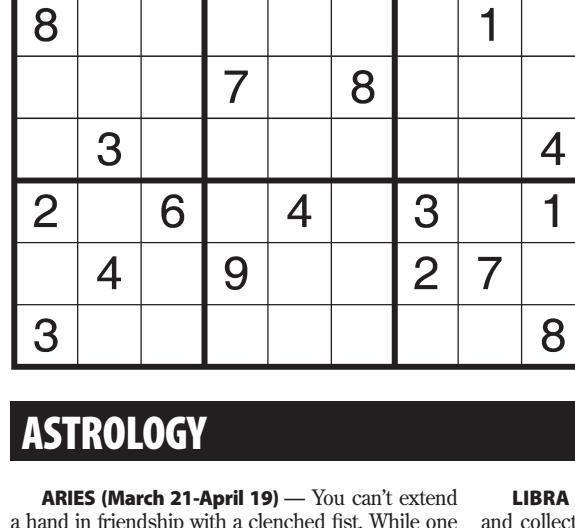
hurts everyone. Even though there isn't a woman in your relationship, stereotypes about gender and gender roles are preventing both of you from figuring out what's not working.

Telling him to "be a man" is not getting the point across, so see if other ways of explaining the problem work better. Try telling him, "I feel overburdened; I need you to step up for me" or "I feel like I'm doing too much of the work around the house, and I need some support" can open up a conversation in a new way.

What this takes is vulnerability. And that can be hard. The upside is that your husband sees you as a stable force who can solve any problem. But it sounds like you don't want to have to solve every problem. It's easy to get stuck in grooves, even as we change or our needs change.

There's a card game called Fair Play (fairplaylife.com) that has helped many couples redistribute household tasks and hear each other's requests without defensiveness. Try it out at a time when neither of you is feeling fed up and see if it helps you clear the air.

## SUDOKU



## ASTROLOGY

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — You can't extend a hand in friendship with a clenched fist. While one part of you wants to be seen as trustworthy and kindhearted, another part might be ready to debate every point. Focus on being kind to everyone you come across.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — Honesty and fair play may earn you the right sort of attention. Showing some originality and resourcefulness might help to spark the interest of a secret admirer. Thinking outside the box doesn't mean rushing through everything.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) — Perspective is powerful; the solution to any problem might easily lie in how you view it. A fresh viewpoint and optimistic attitude could make things unfold positively. Consider turning routine tasks into a game to complete them effortlessly.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) — You may grow defensive if you feel someone is controlling your actions. Do your best to control your own temper and mood. Even those focused on always thinking of others first might struggle to show compassion and sensitivity today.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — A sincere compliment could go a long way to making someone notice your best qualities. Offering kind words and positive reinforcement might help you genuinely impress someone. You may achieve more by offering a fair compromise.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Sometimes, it's best to follow the leader rather than rushing ahead and upsetting those who may have been waiting their turn. It may be helpful to avoid seeking instant gratification and be patient with those who are less ambitious than you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Stay calm, cool, and collected if your friendly gestures seem to be challenged. You might encounter tricky tactics that test your loyalty and honor. Keep your composure and avoid judging others too harshly over the next few days.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Novelty may fade but hopefully the positive influence will last. New friends might be intriguing, possibly because they might bring a refreshing change to your routine. Networking could introduce you to someone who offers a fresh perspective.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Highlight strengths instead of pointing out flaws, and you might gain a lifelong friend. Steer clear of power struggles over sensitive matters or projects. Your good judgment and tolerant attitude could make people listen to you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Radiate your star power and don't let others down. You may be relied on to get the project done. Try something new; you might be fascinated by the latest trends or events. Stay ready to embrace challenges and rewarding changes.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You might realize that you no longer have much in common with a group of friends or no longer enjoy a membership. You might need to cut ties with an organization or social group and move on. Always do what feels most aligned for you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — They say there's no rest for the weary, but it may be time to unwind after a busy week. Consider setting professional matters aside until Monday to focus on lighter, more enjoyable activities. You could experience a series of abundant rewards.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Stay calm, cool, and collected if your friendly gestures seem to be challenged. You might encounter tricky tactics that test your loyalty and honor. Keep your composure and avoid judging others too harshly over the next few days.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Novelty may fade but hopefully the positive influence will last. New friends might be intriguing, possibly because they might bring a refreshing change to your routine. Networking could introduce you to someone who offers a fresh perspective.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Highlight strengths instead of pointing out flaws, and you might gain a lifelong friend. Steer clear of power struggles over sensitive matters or projects. Your good judgment and tolerant attitude could make people listen to you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Radiate your star power and don't let others down. You may be relied on to get the project done. Try something new; you might be fascinated by the latest trends or events. Stay ready to embrace challenges and rewarding changes.

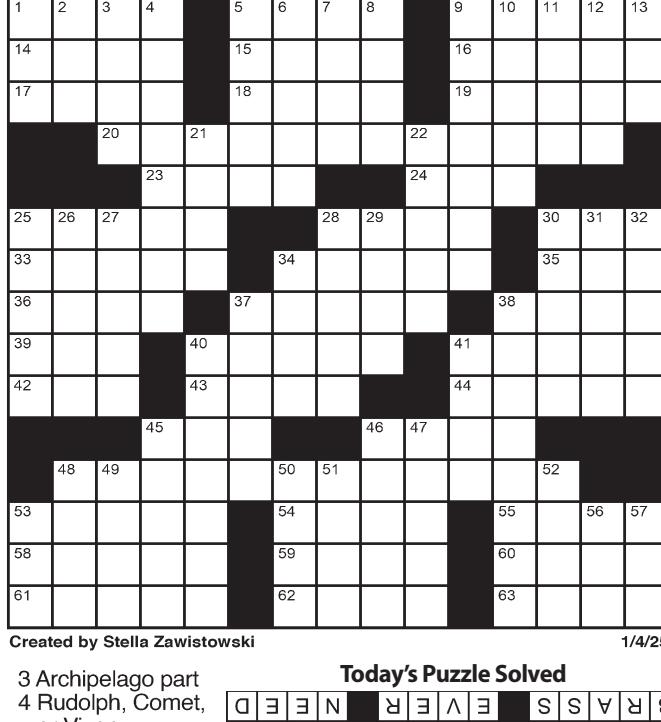
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You might realize that you no longer have much in common with a group of friends or no longer enjoy a membership. You might need to cut ties with an organization or social group and move on. Always do what feels most aligned for you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — They say there's no rest for the weary, but it may be time to unwind after a busy week. Consider setting professional matters aside until Monday to focus on lighter, more enjoyable activities. You could experience a series of abundant rewards.

## THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

## ACROSS

1 Impartial  
5 Newspaper essay  
9 Well-dressed  
14 Otherwise  
15 "Grizzly" animal  
16 Edition of a newspaper  
17 Sandwich shop  
18 Merit  
19 Enormous  
20 Set of reference books: Abbr.  
23 Short run  
24 "Why \_\_\_ you still here?"  
25 Deep yellow  
28 People of Arizona  
30 Every bit of  
33 Took a risk  
34 Body lotion brand  
35 Clairol product  
36 "Pants on fire" person  
37 Maker of cookies  
38 Extra amount  
39 Pen fluid  
40 Nightclub charge  
41 Subject for discussion  
42 Spelling competition  
43 Tampa Bay baseball team  
44 Cage for rabbits  
45 "I agree"  
46 Look over quickly  
48 Collection of an artist's top songs: 2 wds.



Created by Stella Zawistowski

1/4/25

## Today's Puzzle Solved



Created by Stella Zawistowski

## DOWN

1 Gave a snack to 2 Bitter beer

3 Archipelago part  
4 Rudolph, Comet, or Vixen  
5 Does as told  
6 Georgia fruit  
7 English nobleman  
8 First 007 film: 2 wds.  
9 Lagos's country  
10 "All kidding" —  
11 TV chef Ming  
12 Fish in a can  
13 To date  
21 Hallmark product  
22 Origami material  
25 Go off script: 2 wds.  
26 Stephen King's state  
27 Slow down  
28 Walks in nature  
29 Finished  
30 Take in  
31 Kind of poetry  
32 Bloodsucking creature  
34 Maritime force  
37 Brag  
38 Everest or Fuji

40 Makes from scratch  
50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle41 Eastern European  
45 Shouts  
46 Took unlawfully  
47 Merriment  
48 Equipment  
49 Indian music variety  
50 Kit caboodle51 Haaland  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

## DOWN

1 Gave a snack to 2 Bitter beer

40 Makes from scratch  
50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

57 Kit caboodle

50 Comfortable feeling  
51 Bangkok native  
52 Certain  
53 Secretary  
54 Indian music variety  
55 Fish eggs  
56 Kit caboodle

# Eagles to rest Barkley in finale

Move ends chase for NFL rushing record

BY DAN GELSTON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — Saquon Barkley had a heart-to-heart talk with his dad that was more coated in heartbreak than hope over the Philadelphia Eagles running back's pursuit of the NFL single-season rushing record.

Barkley's stirring chase of Eric Dickerson was over — he will sit out the Eagles final regular-season game Sunday, denying the running back his chance at breaking the mark.

The news came with a tough call with his dad, Alibay.

"He definitely wanted me to play," Barkley said Wednesday at his locker. "Selfishly for him, you've got to think about it ... our last name would have been attached to that. I see it from that side, too. At the end of the day, the most important thing is winning football games. He's the one that raised me to kind of be all about the team, too. He can have his little selfish moment, but he'll get over it."

Barkley insisted he recovered from the sting, too.

So will an offensive line that pushed for the star back to set the record, and even fans who wanted to say they were there Sunday at the Linc against the New York Giants and witness a little slice of NFL history.

Barkley will finish the season with 2,005 yards rushing, just 101 yards shy of breaking Dickerson's record of 2,105 yards set with the Los Angeles Rams in 1984.

The Eagles (13-3) clinched the NFC East and the No. 2 seed in the conference, leaving little to play for against the Giants.

That included NFL records.

Coach Nick Sirianni made the final call — after a pair of conversations with Barkley, players, coaches, general manager Howie Roseman — to give Barkley the week off and not risk potential injury to perhaps their most valuable player and only the ninth running back in NFL history to top 2,000 yards rushing in a season.

"May never get another opportunity like that again," Barkley said. "So, I'm down. But at the end of the day, I don't care for putting the team at risk. He's the head coach for a



Saquon Barkley

reason. He makes those decisions."

Barkley should have plenty of company among the starting lineup sitting out Sunday before the Eagles host either Washington or Green Bay in an NFC wild-card playoff game.

Sirianni said he was set to rest the bulk of the starters — notably quarterback Jalen Hurts, who sat out Sunday's rout of Dallas with the lingering effects of a concussion — to get them rested and healthy ahead of what the franchise hopes will be a deep run to the Super Bowl.

"I'm just happy I didn't have to make that decision," Barkley said. "Nick made it pretty easy on me and I'm truly at peace with it."

The Eagles had their bye week in Week 5, and returned from a 2-2 start to win 10 straight games and seize control of the division. But 12 straight games — where Barkley added to his NFL-high 345 carries — also played a role in Sirianni giving the Barkley and the starters one week off before the Eagles open the playoffs.

With no guarantee of a Super Bowl, much less even one playoff win, some Eagles struck a melancholy tone inside the locker room that Barkley's run had been grounded.

"Everybody would like to have the record," offensive tackle Lane Johnson said. "We'd also like to have the player for a playoff game, and win a playoff game with him."

After he ran for 167 yards in Sunday's win against Dallas, Barkley said he wanted the record, but he would do what was best for the Eagles, even if that meant sitting out the last game of the regular season.

"On Sunday, I probably didn't care too much for it," Barkley said. "When I slept on it, it was like, it was an opportunity to implement my name in football history."

Yes, Barkley can't catch Dickerson, but he bulldozed past LeSean McCoy, Brian Westbrook and Wilbert Montgomery for best season by a running back in Eagles history.

He

is

set

to

wonder

what

if?

The decision also ends that hand-wringing that Barkley would have set the record in an extra 17th game that Dickerson did not have in 1984.

In 1984, Dickerson topped 100 yards rushing 12 times to break O.J. Simpson's 1973 record with Buffalo of 2,003 yards rushing in a single season.

Simpson set his record in 14 games before the NFL expanded to 16 in 1978. The NFL moved to 17 games in 2021.

"I didn't sign here to break Eric Dickerson's record," Barkley said. "I came here to win a Super Bowl."

## EMPLOYMENT

"S.I.I.L.C" is looking for a part-time advocate for residents of long term care facilities in southeastern Indiana. The primary purpose of the position is to promote and protect the rights of residents in nursing facilities and licensed assisted living facilities within the southeastern Indiana region. Training and certification is provided. Applicants must have at least 4 years work experience in the field of long term care or a bachelor's degree.

SIILC, located in Vevay, is a non-profit organization offering beneficial services in your immediate area.

Call today to find out more at 812-427-3333. Qualified applicants may email resumes to siilc@live.com

## VISIT US ONLINE

[www.madisoncourier.com](http://www.madisoncourier.com)

INDIANA LAND COMPANY OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE (812) 923-9823 & (812) 246-1500

[www.indianalandcompany.com](http://www.indianalandcompany.com)

MADISON 7 1/2 ACRES OPEN / WOODS ON GEYMAN HILL ROAD \$69,900

MILTON KY 1 ACRES OPEN LEVEL LAND MODULAR HOME OK \$26,900

BLOCHER 3 3/4 ACRES OPEN/WOODS DEAD END UTILS AT ROAD \$39,900

NEW WASHINGTON 9 1/2 ACRES OPEN FRONT WOODS IN BACK WITH CREEK \$79,900

SCOTTSBURG 2 ACRES OPEN/FLAT FENCED SEPTIC APPROVED \$41,900

LEXINGTON 4 ACRES ROBINS RD OPEN/WOODS SMALL CREEK \$69,900

SALEM 4 ACRES OPEN WITH TREES WITH CREEK SEPTIC APPROVED \$49,900

SOUTH BOSTON 1 1/2 ACRES WOODED UTILS AT ROAD OFF HWY 160 \$29,900

SCOTT CO. 3 3/4 ACRES ALL WOODS ON HARDY MILL ROAD \$34,900

LEXINGTON 4 1/2 ACRES WOODED ROLLING PRIVATE HORNER ROAD \$36,900

## Harold Furnish Liquidation Sale

January 4th 2025 at 11:00am

1724 North 450 West

Madison, Indiana 47250

Guns: Winchester, Browning, Savage, Smith & Wesson, Henry,

Shotgun Ammo, Gun Safe.

Mower & Equipment: Bad Boy Mower, Cub Cadet Riding Mower, Push Mowers, Stihl Chain Saws, Stihl Battery Powered Weed Eater, Battery Powered Pole Saw, Push Type Weed Eater, Wood Splitter, Cub Cadet Rear Tine Tiller, Bass Boat, Drill Press, Air Compressor. Push plows, Misc. Tools, Leaf Blowers, Craftsman Table Saw, Farm Hand Welder, 3500 Watt Generator, and more.

Antiques & Collectibles: (2) Flat Wall Kitchen Cupboards, Hoosier Style Cabinet, Crock, Blue Willow Dishware, Shirley Temple Items, Beds, Misc. Furniture, Sheath Knives, Oil Lamps, Steel Wagon Wheels, Cast Iron Tub, Alladin Oil Lamp, Hand Stitched Quilts, Old Ammo Boxes, Bowl & Pitcher Sets, Chamber Pots, Misc. Oil Lamps, Buttocks Baskets, Gathering Baskets, Longaberger basket, Nail Keg, Whiskey Barrel, and more.

Appliances: (2) Freezers, Refrigerator, Stove, Microwave

Vehicle: 2013 Chevy Equinox, 140k miles

Announcements Day of Sale Take Precedent over ads

SALE STARTS AT 11:00 A.M. Guns will sell at Noon.

JODY BARGER

812-595-3189

AU10300132

# Rodgers: Time with Jets 'best 2 years of my life'

Says needs mental break; no decision on retirement

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Aaron Rodgers was in a reflective mood as he prepares for what could be his last game with the New York Jets.

And of his impressive 20-year NFL career.

"Yeah, of course," Rodgers said when asked Wednesday if he has considered that the season finale Sunday against Miami could also be it for him. The 41-year-old quarterback insisted, though, he's not ready to make a call on his playing future.

"I just need a break mentally to kind of refresh and put my feet in the sand," he said. "And see where I'm at after that."

Still, he very much sounded as though he doesn't necessarily expect to be back with the Jets — even if he does want to continue playing.

"I mean, gratitude, honestly," Rodgers said of his time in New York, repeating that sentiment throughout his 10-minute chat with reporters. "It's been the best two years of my life."

He called it a "perspective adjustment" that happened for him during his rehabilitation process from a torn Achilles tendon that limited him to just four snaps in his ballyhooed debut for the Jets last season. Rodgers said he fell in love with the game of football again after 18 years in Green Bay and cherishes the relationships he has made with teammates, coaches and others in the

Jets organization.

"Obviously wish things would have gone better on the field," he said. "But nothing but gratitude for this time in my life."

Rodgers came to the Jets in April 2023 in a trade from the Packers and immediately stoked optimism throughout the organization and fanbase that New York could go on a Super Bowl run. Or two. Or even more.

Instead, those dreams quickly dissolved with Rodgers' injury last season. And he has dealt with other injuries during a season that again began with high hopes, but has crumbled into one of the most disappointing in franchise history.

The Jets are 4-12, fired

coach Robert Saleh and

general manager Joe

Douglas — and Rodgers

has only shown spurts

of looking like a four-

time MVP. He has also

acknowledged that the

team could release him

after this season.

"I think there's going to be change here and if I'm a part of the change, then I just want to make sure

everybody knows that I

have nothing but gratitude for my time here," Rodgers said. "It's been a great experience all around, and again, I'm disappointed about the performance of both myself

and as a team, but really

thankful for the opportunity."

"If I feel good coming

back and they want to

make another run at this,

that'd be fantastic. But I'm

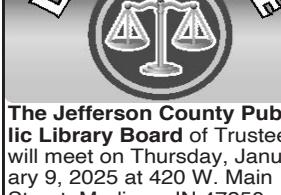
not naive to the situation we're in."

After the 2022 season, Rodgers' future with the Packers was similarly uncertain and the quarterback was leaning toward retiring. He went on a darkness retreat in Oregon, where he spent four days in isolation and then emerged re-energized about playing and decided he wanted to join the Jets.

SEE RODGERS/PAGE B8

## SERVICES

We Buy Scraps Cars  
\$\$Top prices paid\$\$!  
Fast pickup!  
\$\$Cash\$\$ Paid for scrap cars & trucks  
Call 812-933-8151 or text



The Jefferson County Public Library Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 420 W. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250. The annual Board of Finance meeting will be held at 3:30 P.M. The Regular Board meeting will be at 4:00 P.M. hspaxlp



STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JEFFERSON SS:  
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT  
CAUSE NUMBER: 39C01-2412-JT-000016

IN THE MATTER OF THE TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP: TL - DOB 3/24/2016 AND LAWRENCE KITHONGO (ALLEGED FATHER) AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED FATHERS

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING

TO: Lawrence Kithongo and Any Unknown Alleged Father Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, as well as Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are also unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed a Petition for Involuntary Termination of your Parental Rights, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Jefferson Circuit Court, 300 East Main Street, Madison, IN 47250-3537 - 812-285-8930 for a(n) Initial/Fact Finding Hearing on 2/14/2025 at 1:00 PM and to answer the Petition for Termination of your Parental Rights of said child.

You are further notified that if the allegations in said petition are true, and/or if you fail to appear at the hearing, the Juvenile Court may terminate your parent-child relationship; and if the Court terminates your parent-child relationship you will lose all parental rights, powers, privileges, immunities, duties and obligations including any rights to custody, control, visitation, or support in said child; and if the Court terminates your parent-child relationship, it will be permanently terminated, and thereafter you may not contest an adoption or other placement of said child.

You are entitled to representation by an attorney, provided by the State if applicable, throughout these proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship. If you have been appointed an attorney in the Child in Need of Services action involving the above-named child(ren), that attorney may not be automatically appointed to represent you in these proceedings to terminate the parent-child relationship.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, adjudication on said petition and termination of your parental rights may be entered against you, in your absence, without further notice.

Tabatha Eblen Clerk  
Brady Jette, 38657-15 Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services

hspaxlp

## MADISON COURIER CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

### Publication Date

Tuesday

### Deadline

Thursday 4 PM

Friday

Tuesday 4 PM

# Blues dominate Blackhawks in Winter Classic

BY JAY COHEN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — St. Louis coach Jim Montgomery walked around before Tuesday night's Winter Classic. He looked at the growing crowd soaking in the festive atmosphere. He thought about all the famous ballplayers who played at Wrigley Field.

"And here we are getting to play an NHL hockey game," Montgomery said. "It's just really cool."

The Winter Classic returned to Wrigley on the final day of 2024, and the Chicago Blackhawks threw quite a party. Fireworks streaked through the night sky at the home of baseball's Chicago Cubs. The Smashin' Pumpkins and Chance the Rapper performed, and actors Bill Murray and Jon Hamm got a big ovation when they were shown on a videoboard during the third period.

It was a very Chicago party, and St. Louis had all the fun. The Blues rolled to a 6-2 victory

over the Blackhawks in front of a crowd of 40,933, improving to 3-0 in the Winter Classic.

"This was an amazing experience for the fans and just for us, too," St. Louis captain Brayden Schenn said. "Having family and friends here to experience something like that at Wrigley Field, an amazing thing, and then winning on top of it."

Just a couple weeks after he was acquired by St. Louis in a trade with Anaheim, Cam Fowler celebrated his 1,000th NHL game with two goals. The 33-year-old defenseman became the first player in NHL history to skate outdoors for his 1,000th game.

The night — the confluence of events that put Fowler in that moment after spending his entire career with the Ducks — was "pretty surreal," he said.

"Going through a lot of emotions the last few weeks getting adjusted to a new team," he said. "But couldn't have asked for anything more for this experience,

getting to share it with my family ... It was an awesome night for all of us."

Not so much for the lowly Blackhawks. It was a much different scene in the home clubhouse, where Chicago was searching for answers after its fifth consecutive loss.

Backed by the majority of a raucous crowd, the Blackhawks got off to a slow start and the Blues pulled away with three goals in the second period. There were loud chants of "Let's go Blues!" in the final seconds of the game.

"You know, those tickets aren't cheap for them to come and support us," Chicago forward Connor Bedard said. "We, obviously, in our room are disappointed with ourselves. But I feel bad for our fan base coming out to this and we kind of lay an egg."

The day began with Bedard and the Blackhawks — carrying their sticks and skates and dressed in custom "Team Chicago" gear — using one of the

city's famed elevated trains to travel to Wrigley.

The team's pregame apparel was designed to highlight the connection between the franchise and the city. The clothes had patches paying tribute to Chicago's first responders, and each player picked a charitable or community-based organization for their hat.

"It's a neat thing to bring our community together, right?" captain Nick Foligno said. "And one of the big things we talked about was our first responders, too, and what they mean to our community and what they do for us. And we wanted to kind of highlight that and also highlight what means a lot to us."

St. Louis dressed in gray sweatshirts and hats for its bus trip to the ballpark. The hats had 99 on the front and the shirts had a round emblem with 99 and GRETZKY'S BASEMENT — a nod to the hockey school connected to Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky.

"We just thought it would be a great opportunity to honor Wayne and everything he's done for the game," Blues defenseman Justin Faulk said. "He's obviously an integral part in St. Louis, too. He's done a lot for the community there and still does, and he's great to everyone in the organization and the guys and we thought there's no better way to show our appreciation than to do this today for him."

The Blues occupied the visitor's clubhouse at Wrigley, which meant they had to navigate a long stairway on their way to and from the ice. Like they usually do when they play outdoors, they made the most of the situation.

"Just had to take your time," goaltender Jordan Binnington said with a grin. "It kind of helped me focus for the game. Just one step at a time. We talk about that a lot and I was really taking it one step at a time because I did not want to go down."

## US defeats Canada 4-1 to claim top spot at world juniors

OTTAWA, Ontario — Danny Nelson scored the eventual game-winner in the third period and Trey Augustine made 38 saves, leading the United States to a 4-1 win over Canada on Tuesday night and into the top spot in Group A at the world junior hockey championship.

Cole Hutson and Cole

Eiserman each had a goal and an assist for the Americans. Ryan Leonard scored into an empty-net.

Bradly Nadeau scored for Canada, which allowed three goals on seven American power plays. Carter George stopped 24 shots.

Canada finished third in the pool and will face Czechia in Thursday's quarter-

finals. The Americans face Switzerland.

"We're not here to beat Canada tonight," Augustine said. "We're here to win a gold medal."

The other matchups will have Group B winner Sweden take on Latvia, and Finland square off with Slovakia.

Canada and the U.S.

played in the same building exactly 16 years to the day at the 2009 event, when John Tavares scored a memorable hat trick in Canada's 7-4 comeback victory on New Year's Eve. The Canadians went on to win a fifth straight gold.

"That's something that's storybook-like," Eiserman said of beating Canada on

home soil in the tournament's marquee round-robin matchup. "Something that you've dreamt of."

The teams met on New Year's Eve for the first time since Dec. 31, 2016, when Canada picked up a 3-1 victory in Toronto. The U.S. got revenge less than a week later with a 5-4 shootout win in the title

game in Montreal.

The Americans opened this under-20 tournament with a 10-4 win over Germany followed by a 5-1 victory over Latvia before losing to Finland 4-3 in overtime. Canada started with a 4-0 defeat of Finland before falling to Latvia 3-2 in a shootout and then rebounding to beat Germany 3-0.

## PAXTON MEDIA GROUP CLASSIFIED ADS

CALL TO PLACE YOUR AD IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN INDIANA

### 0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

AccuLevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to \$600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-877-229-0197

Call LeafGuard and say goodbye to gutter cleaning for good. No cleaning. No leaking. No water damage. No more ladder accidents. Get LeafGuard today and be protected for life. FREE estimate. Financing available. 20% off total purchase (Restrictions may apply.) Call 1-866-641-9158

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-572-5165

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-244-7025 www.dental50plus.com/hoosier #6258

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-885-8931

### 0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-414-2352 today!

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-855-967-4960

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-361-4260

FreedomCare. Let your loved ones care for you and get paid! Paid by Medicaid. Choose family or friends as your paid caregiver. Check your eligibility today! Call FreedomCare now! 1-844-563-4012

Get break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-833-587-2145 today!

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 3/30/25.) Call 1-866-937-1159

### 0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

New windows from Window Nation. Special money saving offers - zero down, zero payments, zero interest for TWO years AND buy 2 windows and get 2 FREE! Offer is valid for select models. Labor not included. Other restrictions apply. Call Window Nation today! 866-553-0725

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect™ standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value!) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-877-798-0270.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-781-6023

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-743-1911

### 0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1,000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-855-699-1308

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-655-7718

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts! Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207

When you want the best, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package makes a great gift and comes with 8 FREE Burgers ONLY \$99.99. Call 1-866-309-8556 and mention code 77318GER or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe9878

### 0500 MERCHANTISE

WINSLOW- FREE TRAILER FOR SCRAP. MUST MOVE. ON LOGTOWN RD., WINSLOW. DORIS & AARON BELLAMY (812)582-1592

### 0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

200 Bank St. Large 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, townhome in perfect location. Recently remodeled end unit. Available now.

\$1,200 per month/\$1,000 security deposit. Call for application (812) 599-6570.

MADISON- CBJ Properties One bedroom apartments on Madison Hilltop. Clean and quality maintained. Starting at \$600/mo. plus electric. Laundry facilities available. References, background check and deposit required. 12-month lease only. No smoking. Call (812)265-6050 for an app.

### MADISON- CHATEAU MANOR

Quiet hilltop neighborhood with sidewalks and shade trees at corner of Cragmont and Mouser. Spacious 2BR Apartments with renovated kitchen and bathroom, dishwasher, washer/dryer hookups, Abundant closet space and deck.

Rent \$700 - \$795. Deposit \$650. References required. Visit chateaumanorapts.com or Call (812)273-3375

### HATFIELD Indiana- 2 BR.

Frg. Stove Air Conditioner remodeled and out building Rent \$600.00 Deposit \$600.00 270-779-0888

Fill Your Purse Through the Classifieds

### 0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

MADISON- MADISON HEIGHTS Quiet, park-like setting. Fast and friendly maintenance. Hilltop complex, centrally located behind Big Lots. Apartments and townhomes: \$875-1200/mo. To apply, visit dogwoodmanagement.com or call (812) 273-5057.

### MADISON- SUGGET SCHMIDT PROPERTIES

Now accepting applications for a spacious 2BR, 1 bath duplex with attached garage in our 55+ development. Completely remodeled. Convenient Madison hilltop location on quiet dead end street. Back deck overlooks creek and woods. Friendly, full time maintenance and office staff. Proud to be voted Madison's Best! Check out our website www.suggetschmidtproperties.com to learn more and click contact us to download an application or call 812-265-2020 and leave message.

### MADISON - The Presidential Estates & Windridge Apartments

Now accepting applications for 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom apartments. Applications are taken Mon., Wed. & Fri. from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rent based on income. Apply at Rental Office, located at 2855 Windridge Dr. Equal Housing Opportunity Call (812)273-3363 T.D.D.#1-800-743-3333

### CLOSETS BULGING?

Sell Your Stuff in the Classifieds!

